LAKE SAN MARCOS

AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATION PLAN

Prepared in support of Coverage Under:

Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Waters of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications; Water Quality Order No. 2013-0002-DWQ; General Permit No. CAG990005
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP) has been prepared in compliance with the Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Waters of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications (Permit) (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] 2013). Amongst the provisions of the Permit is the submission of an APAP, and this document is a comprehensive plan that identifies the setting, approach, monitoring, and reporting for use of aquatic pesticides at Lake San Marcos (Lake), San Diego County, California.

An immediate action in the planning stages is the application of algaecide in conjunction with alum. This proposed effort has been undertaken pursuant to remediation of the lake for nutrient impairments (see below), and is currently part of several pilot studies being undertaken at the Lake and in the Upper San Marcos Creek watershed. These pilot studies will be the basis of future corrective actions, which are being undertaken in close coordination with the Regional Board.

From a more general perspective, the use of aquatic pesticides, herbicides, and dyes are considered herein as tools within a larger set of lake management practices. The Lake owner, Citizens Development Corporation (CDC), has undertaken to manage the Lake environment in order to promote and maintain the beneficial uses of the Lake. This Plan includes descriptions of the Lake environment, a description of nuisance conditions present at the Lake, important management of Lake resources, the decision process for how the uses of algaecides, herbicides and dyes will be selected and used, and the monitoring and reporting of the use of approved algaecides, herbicides, and dyes.

An inherent part of the activities covered by this Plan will be establishing a balance between impairing natural resources and managing the Lake environment with products designed to treat vegetative nuisance conditions. CDC recognizes that the nuisance conditions are seasonal in nature and that the appropriate use of algaecides, herbicides and dyes will require ongoing assessment of parameters such as water temperature, clarity, seasonal progression (and senescence) of vegetation and/or phytoplankton. This Plan seeks to describe how CDC will establish a balanced approach and be a responsible steward of state water resources.

1.1 Lake Setting

Lake San Marcos lies within a developed unincorporated area of northern San Diego County. The Lake is a finger lake running north to south with several embayments on either side of the upper part of the Lake (FIGURE 1). The Lake is a recreational resource valued by boaters, the sport fishing community, and area residents. The Lake is used as a source of irrigation water for an adjacent golf course; withdrawal is balanced by replenishment with groundwater.

The upper approximately two-thirds of the lake is developed, and the margins of the lake consist of landscaped grounds or armored shorelines. Many residences along the margin of the lake include boat docks (typically with pontoon or duffy boats), and the hotel complex on the eastern shoreline

FIGURE 1. BATHYMETRY OF LAKE SAN MARCOS (2012)

includes a boat marina. In contrast to the upper Lake, the lower two-thirds of the Lake lies in a steep canyon and is bounded by chaparral-vegetated slopes. The dam is located at the southern end of the Lake. When full, the Lake is 56 acres in area and holds approximately 509 acre-feet of water (DBSA 2016). The historical average sedimentation rate estimated based on available bathymetric surveys (e.g., Ball, 1974; Tierra Data 2013) is around 2 cm/year.

The Lake is located at the southern boundary of the Richland Hydrologic Subarea within the San Marcos Hydrologic Area of the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit in northern San Diego County, and is an impoundment of San Marcos Creek (Creek). The Creek drains a watershed of approximately 18,540 acres (DBSA 2016). The watershed area drains into the Lake at uneven rates throughout the year: during the summer the Creek can run dry for several months, while in the winter there is a base flow which increases significantly during storm events. As a result of this pattern, nutrient loading from the watershed is largely a result of winter stormwater flows (DBSA 2016).

The Lake is subject to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (Basin Plan) narrative objectives, which directs prevention of "plant nuisances" (Regional Water Quality Control Board [RB] 1994). The RB has issued two documents to encourage progress on finding a remedy. The first was the Investigative Order R9-2011-0033 (Investigative Order), which directed CDC to monitor the lake, evaluate the resulting data, and develop recommendations to address eutrophic conditions. These goals have been accomplished and documented in the *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report, Upper San Marcos Creek Watershed and Lake San Marcos* (RIFS) (DBSA 2016).

In 2017, the RB adopted Resolution R9-2017-0038, "A Resolution Supporting a Path Forward for Nutrient Load Reductions in Lake San Marcos and the San Marcos Creek Watershed." CDC continues to work with the upstream municipal parties (Cities of Escondido and San Marcos, County of San Diego, and Vallecitos Water District) on that path.

1.2 Overview of the Regulatory History

The Lake is regulated by two state agencies. The SWRCB regulates water rights issues related to diversion of San Marcos Creek waters by the dam. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RB) oversees issues related to water quality throughout the watershed, including the Lake. Water rights have been granted to CDC by the state and are the subject of an ongoing process to update CDC's license.

Several beneficial uses have been designated for Lake San Marcos including: Agricultural Supply (AGR) (i.e., irrigation), Human Health (Contact Water Recreation [REC-1]), Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2), Aquatic Dependent Wildlife (Support Warm Water Ecosystems (WARM), and Wildlife Habitat (WILD). The Richland hydrologic subarea (904.52), in which the Lake lies, has been exempted from municipal and domestic supply (MUN) uses, and is therefore not subject to drinking water standards.

The RB is also responsible for determining how the beneficial uses are impaired by pollution under the CWA, and has recommended the Lake be listed for several impairments under CWA Section 303(d). Water quality standards used to determine impairment have been designated in the San Diego Region Basin Plan (Basin Plan, RB 1994). The Lake has been listed as impaired for ammonia as nitrogen and for nutrients (RB 2009), but the 2014 updates to the 303(d) list adopted by the RB

also include phosphorus and copper (RB 2016) (Note: although the 2016 report has been approved by the RB, it has not been approved by either the SWRCB nor the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], and the report therefore retains draft status). Impairments of the Lake are summarized in TABLE 1.

The nutrient impairments listed in TABLE 1 are consistent with the general eutrophic conditions observed at the Lake, and also contribute to nuisance vegetation issues in and around the Lake. Eutrophic conditions include elevated chlorophyll-*a* concentrations (a surrogate measure of phytoplankton populations), infestations of aquatic plants (described below), and dense emergent vegetation. Water quality nutrient impairments at the Lake are being addressed through the RIFS process referenced above; several remedies have been identified at the Lake (and in the Watershed) and are in the planning and/or pilot stages. Alum (aluminum sulfate) treatment is amongst the pilot studies being conducted at the Lake. RIFS-remedies are designed to specifically address water quality conditions; measures included in this Plan will be tools to address excessive algae, aquatic nuisance plants, and emergent vegetation.

TABLE 1. LAKE SAN MARCOS LISTINGS UNDER CWA 303(D)

Constituent	Criterion	Listing Date	Listing Type
Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	0.025 mg/L (as Nitrogen), unionized	2006	2014 Water Quality Limited Segment
Nutrients	Narrative	2006	2014 Water Quality Limited Segment
Phosphorus	0.025 mg/L [1]	2006	2014 Water Quality Limited Segment
Copper	3.1ug/L (CCC) [2]	2014	Proposed New Listing
Phosphorus	0.025 mg/L [1]	2014	Proposed New Listing

[1] Concentration not to be exceeded more than 10 percent of the time.
[2] Criterion derived from the California Toxics Rule per Basin Plan (RB 2016); value presented is not hardness-corrected; CCC - criterion continuous concentration.
mg/L – milligrams per liter
ug/L – micrograms per liter

2.0 AQUATIC PLANT NUISANCE CONDITIONS

Excessive algae, aquatic nuisance plants, and emergent vegetation all exhibit unique seasonal patterns and ecologies, and therefore require separate management approaches. Each is described below.

Excessive algae populations (including phytoplankton) have generally exhibited as elevated chlorophyll-*a* concentrations and reduced water clarity. These conditions have historically persisted year-round, with some visual changes occurring during and immediately following wet weather events. Wet weather events typically disrupt the phytoplankton populations, but do not result in any

long-term diminishment of eutrophic conditions. Over the past 5 years of monthly monitoring, chlorophyll–a concentrations typically peak in the summer. In the summer of 2017, peak algal populations were elevated to a degree that the state was notified of a potential harmful algal bloom at the Filamentous algae, and associated algae mats, are therefore also potential issues at the lake, but may not coincide with increased chlorophyll-*a* in the water column and reduced water quality. Lake. Amongst the management techniques during this bloom was manual removal of algal mats; this approach alone was not successful either in the short term (for the bloom event) or the long term (since the bloom coincided with thick beds of widgeongrass [*Ruppia maritima]* in region of the Lake with the highest impact [the northern lobe]). It is noteworthy that the magnitude of of algal bloom and widgeongrass extent was observed following a very wet winter (2016-2017); such intense ecological climax events were not observed during the prior 4 summers, which were all considered drought years.

Aquatic vegetation issues, as stated above, are currently dominated by concerns that widgeongrass will return on an annual basis during the summer and fall. The extent of widgeongrass in 2017 was dramatic in extent: recreational uses in the upper basin were restricted due to propeller fouling, and extensive labor was used to remove the weed both using a harvester and by direct manual labor; these techniques were not successful. The widgeongrass was an issue for recreational Lake users until the mid-Fall when vegetative senescence occurred (as expected). However, widgeongrass is not the only concern: other aquatic plants have been observed in the past as well, and are potential issues which may require additional tools to manage appropriately. Other aquatic weeds observed historically include: pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) and watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) (Note: this is not considered an exhaustive list).

Emergent vegetation is present at the lake in two general forms: native species such as rushes, cattails, and willows; and non-native species, which primarily consist of water lilies. For native plants, maintenance of rushes and cattails are most of concern due to their propensity to dominate shallow shorelines (in both natural and urban parts of the lakeshore) or block infrastructure (e.g., golf course irrigation intake pipe). For the native species, removal by hand has been undertaken, but additional tools may be necessary to manage emergent vegetation issues proactively with minimal use of herbicide. For non-native species (water lily), the population has expanded significantly in some areas of the lake, and also have the capacity to interfere or block boat and/or dock access. In this case as well, strategic use of herbicides may be used in addition to manual removal for the preservation of recreational uses (e.g., boat access from docks to the open water).

2.1 Alum with Algaecide Pre-Treatment Pilot Study

The RIFS (DBSA 2016) included several selected remedies for the Lake, and included phosphorus inactivation as one of the feasible long-term solutions. Two pilot studies were implemented in 2017 at the Lake; both used alum (aluminum sulfate) to bind phosphorus into a flocculent matrix. While this technique was successful with regard to reducing phosphorus concentrations in the water column, alum treatment did not significantly increase water clarity. Review of the monitoring data indicated that one explanation for the results is that phosphorus remained in the water column not in a dissolved bioavailable form, but instead remained in the form of biomass (i.e., in the phytoplankton).

To test this hypothesis, the parties responsible for the pilot studies have proposed an extension of the pilot study process and included an additional pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of alum following an algaecide treatment. The approach includes an initial treatment with algaecide to reduce biomass followed by alum treatment to bind and sequester bioavailable phosphorus. The pilot study has been scheduled for the spring of 2018, and this permit is submitted in part to bring the pilot study into compliance with the Permit. The pilot study workplan is in development.

3.0 Treatment Areas at Lake San Marcos

The treatment areas covered by this APAP differ according to several issues, and is described as follows:

1. For water column algae, the area of concern covers the extent of the entire Lake;
2. For aquatic plants, the treatment area extends from the shoreline to open water, and is dependent on site-specific recreational uses (i.e., boating and navigation); and
3. For emergent vegetation, the treatment area is along the shoreline where vegetation may interfere with irrigation system infrastructure (at the northern end of the Lake), or in the vicinity of recreational uses (e.g., docks).

4.0 Algaecides and Aquatic Herbicides to be used at Lake San Marcos

TABLE 2 includes the proposed algaecides and herbicides to be used at Lake San Marcos. It is noted that the use of copper containing products are excluded from this list at the current time in consideration of the proposed Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listing of the Lake for copper.

TABLE 2. PROPOSED ALGAECIDES AND HERBICIDES AND MODE OF APPLICATION

Pesticide / Herbicide	Trade Product Name	EPA Registration No.	Method of Application	Adjuvant
Glyphosate	Aquamaster, Aquapro	524-343, 62719-324-67690	Spray nozzle system	None
Diquat	Reward	100-1091	Spray nozzle system	None
Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate	Pak 27	68660-9-67690	Broadcast system	None
Fluroridone	Sonar Q, Sonar One	67690-54 67690-45	Broadcast and/or spray/nozzle system	None
Endotholl	Aquatthol	4581-204	Broadcast system	None

5.0 Discussion of Factors Considered when Selecting Management Options

Aquatic nuisance vegetation and/or algae arise out of many factors influencing Lake conditions. These factors include instantaneous conditions such as temperature, light, lake nutrient concentrations, and vegetative substrate as well as other factors with longer time-horizons including

preceding wet season stormwater flows, extent and magnitude of stratification in the deep lake, recency of flow events. These factors will collectively be weighed to judge the degree to which beneficial uses are degraded, and the likelihood that the degradation will continue and/or become more severe if nuisance vegetation or algae are not addressed.

For algae and cyanobacteria, the Lake is listed as impaired as a result of nutrients and ammonia as N. Loading sources include both lake sediments as well as sources from the watershed (DBSA 2016). Nutrients are typically generated during the wet-season, and transported to the Lake via stormwater inputs. These nutrients are then present in the water column and also in Lake sediments. Later in the season (i.e., summer/fall), the deep lake area is typically stratified and nutrients released from sediments to the water column. Destratification is important from a nutrient standpoint, since deep-lake nutrients are typically distributed throughout the water column and Lake during a destratification event. This, or other primarily physical factors may result in excessive algal growth which threatens beneficial uses in a myriad of ways. Examples of degradation of beneficial uses may include decreased habitat for aquatic plants as a result of shading, reduced benthic invertebrate densities and as a result less robust fish populations, dissolved oxygen reduction (to below Basin Plan objective of 5 milligrams per Liter), and harmful algal blooms (HABs) along with their risks to human and animal health.

Dense nuisance vegetation (aquatic and emergent) likewise has the potential to threaten beneficial uses if growth becomes so dense as to impede water circulation, serve as a substrate for cyanobacteria mats (i.e., HAB condition), fouling of irrigation conveyance systems, and limiting navigation. These conditions when present in excess may in turn produce aesthetic issues, odors, and changes that limit optimal ecological functioning.

For these circumstances, the decision to use a algaecides, herbicides, or other control measures will be undertaken when other measures have been exhausted. With regard to the requirements of Section XIII.C.11 of the Permit, the following will be considered:

1. No action. Without the presence of excessive algae or vegetation (i.e., including areas of the Lake where conditions are not present), no herbicide or algaecide application action will be taken (see Cultural Controls, below).
2. Prevention. Management of Lake resources will be undertaken to prevent the promotion or exacerbation of excessive algae or vegetation issues. Such management will include measures outlined in the Lake Management Plan (currently in draft form) to use best management practices (BMPs) with regard to operational controls, and promote BMPs in the immediate vicinity of the lake to prevent pollution of the Lake.
3. Mechanical Control. Mechanized algae and vegetation removal is familiar to LSM operations staff and will be used in the future to control nuisance conditions to the extent feasible.
4. Cultural Controls. The Lake is currently in the process of remediation that will promote conditions less favorable to algae, and to cyanobacteria in particular. Control measures include proposed phosphorus inactivation in the Lake and Upper San Marcos Creek, the use of a Selective Withdrawal system to promote mixing, and watershed infiltration to reduce phosphorus loading to the Lake ecosystem. Such measures are expected to affect the Lake

over the next several years, as implementation will be phased (pilot studies are underway).

Emergent and aquatic vegetation is typically native vegetation (e.g., cattails, rushes, widgeongrass, pondweed) that either re-establishes from remnant vegetation on an annual basis (e.g., cattails or widgeongrass from rhizomes) or due to natural colonization (e.g., from the Upper San Marcos Creek or from other areas of the Lake). Such establishment would be managed under this plan with the use of a minimal amount of herbicide applied early in the growing season (as opposed to a larger amount of herbicide being used later in the season to treat a greater amount of biomass). For native aquatic vegetation and non-native species (e.g. water lilies), the extent of herbicide application be reviewed and limited to areas where growth threatens operation of Lake infrastructure (e.g., pump intake), conflicts with recreational beneficial uses (e.g., boating, fishing), or is a threat to other beneficial uses (e.g. native wildlife).

5. Biological Controls. With regard to biomanipulation, the fish populations of Lake San Marcos are currently managed as catch-and-release fishing only, and as such are managed to promote a self-regulating ecological system. Fishery management will continue in concert with remediation measures referenced above, and is anticipated to promote a healthy ecological system.

5.1 Selection of Algaecide for the Pilot Study

The pilot study referenced in SECTION 2.1 is currently in the planning stages, and will take into account the phosphorus concentration in the Lake as well as the the algal standing stock biomass to derive a specific algaecide and alum treatment approach. The approach will include:

- Assessment of the magnitude and extent of phosphorus concentrations in the Lake;
- Assessment of the degree to which algaecide pre-treatment will further increase the phosphorus concentration as a result of algal biomass decay;
- Identification of the algaecide to be used;
- Assessment of the minimum amount of algaecide dosage applied to accomplish the pilot study objectives (without impairing beneficial uses);
- Estimation of the alum dosage rate;
- Development of a application schedule for both algaecide and alum; and
- Coordination of monitoring to ensure that sufficient data is collected to assess efficacy and document preservation of beneficial uses.

The workplan for the 2018 pilot program will be submitted and approved by the Regional Board prior to implementation.

6.0 DESCRIPTION OF LAKE CONTROL STRUCTURES AND THEIR OPERATION

The Lake is an impoundment of San Marcos Creek, and Lake level is primarily controlled by the presence of the Lake San Marcos Dam (Dam). The dam is designed to allow overtopping of high flows associated with the wet weather season.

The dam was originally engineered to include a valve at the bottom of the Dam. The valve is operated manually at the discretion of the Lake management team. The valve has historically been operated to be open during wet-weather events and closed for the remainder of the season. The exception to this generalization is when the valve is opened as part of an annual safety inspection conducted by the state's Division of Safety of Dams, typically in summer. Inspection of the valve is also undertaken prior to opening and following closure of the valve to ensure proper operation; the schedule of these inspections by Lake operations staff varies depending on the timing of rainfall events.

With respect to dam overtopping or valve release, control of herbicide or algaecide migration downstream will be managed such that application will be undertaken under the following conditions (in addition to label instructions): (1) when the Dam is not overtopping and the valve is closed, and is anticipated to remain in that condition for 1 week; OR (2) such that application of herbicides and algaecides will be undertaken only on the upper portion of the lake length such that the Lake area within 1000 feet of the Dam will serve as a buffer to potential downstream transport. It is noted that excessive algae and vegetation conditions typically arise in the late spring through early fall when release of water downstream is minimal. In addition to the above constraints, the Lake management team will consider any other conditions present and avoid, minimize, or exclude the potential for downstream herbicide or algaecide migration, when feasible.

The lake level is also managed through the use of a complex system of irrigation and groundwater replenishment. Irrigation water is removed from the Lake near the mouth of San Marcos Creek and used to irrigate the St. Mark Golf Course (SMGC). During summer months (when surface flow is minimized and irrigation need is greatest), the Lake water is replenished with groundwater to maintain the recreational use of the Lake. Although there is no indication that herbicide and/or algaecide applications would affect irrigation uses, the Lake manager will be tasked with coordinating with SMGC managers to ensure that herbicide applications do not negatively impact golf course greens.

7.0 SECTION 5.3 EXCEPTION

CDC has not been granted an exception to Section 5.3 of the SWRCB's *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays*.

8.0 MONITORING PROGRAM

The Permit describes the minimal monitoring requirements of this APAP and are included by reference. The Permit is included as APPENDIX A. The monitoring program is designed to result in data-based documentation that the following questions are addressed:

1. Does the residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides discharge cause an exceedance of the receiving water limitations?
2. Does the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides, including active ingredients, inert ingredients, and degradation byproducts, in any combination cause or contribute to an exceedance of the "no toxics in toxic amount" narrative toxicity objective?

A summary of the monitoring program for Lake San Marcos follows.

8.1 Lake Assessment

The first consideration in the algaecide or herbicide application process will be to assess the nature and extent of algae or vegetation issue. The assessment will include consideration of the spatial extent of the issue(s), vegetative species responsible for impairment, the dam overtopping status, anticipated/forecast wet weather, and other site-specific circumstances. This assessment will be conducted by Lake management staff and need communicated to the licensed applicator. Following evaluation of alternatives outlined in SECTION 5, the lake management team, in consultation with the applicator, will develop a algaecide/herbicide treatment approach.

The Richland hydrologic subarea (904.52), in which the Lake lies, has been exempted from municipal and domestic supply (MUN) uses, and is therefore not subject to drinking water standards. As a result, the algaecides and herbicides listed in TABLE 1 do not have the potential to conflict with any of the Permit-referenced receiving water limitations (Permit, Table 3) with the exception of the toxicity narrative. This monitoring program addresses the toxicity narrative by documenting, among other provisions, that algaecides and herbicides are applied according to label instructions (see below).

8.2 Data Collection

The monitoring program includes provisions to document of how this plan is implemented with regard to specific requirements outlined in the Permit. TABLE 3 includes monitoring provisions directly from the Permit. Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate (one of the algicides listed in TABLE 2) does not require monitoring as an active ingredient under the Permit. Breakdown products of sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate (sodium carbonate, water, and oxygen) are non-toxic and do not persist in the environment for more than a few days (Solvay 2013).

8.3 Monitoring Approach

Conditions at the Lake are such that the time window of algaecide and herbicide application will be limited to conditions when water passing through the Lake system is either not flowing downstream or, if the dam is overtopping, a substantial buffer is in place (i.e., the exclusion of application within 1000 feet of the Dam; see SECTION 6.0).

Monitoring will include collection of three types of samples: background (pre-event), during-event (immediately after treatment), and post-event (one week following treatment). The approach to monitoring will focus on collection of chemistry grab samples that are representative of conditions in

TABLE 3. PERMIT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (SWRCB 2013)

Sample Type	Constituent/Parameter	Units	Sample Method	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Sample Type Requirement	Required Analytical Test Method
Visual	1. Monitoring area description (pond, lake, open waterway, channel, etc.) 2. Appearance of waterway (sheen, color, clarity, etc.) 3. Weather conditions	Not applicable	Visual Observation	1	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	Not applicable
Physical	1. Temperature[2]	°F	Grab[4]	5	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	6
	2. pH[3]	Number				
	3. Turbidity[3]	NTU				
	4. Electric Conductivity[3] @ 25°C	µmhos/cm				
Chemical	1. Active Ingredient[7]	µg/L	Grab[4]	5	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	6
	2. Nonylphenol[8]	µg/L				
	3. Hardness (if copper is monitored)	mg/L				
	4. Dissolved Oxygen[2]	mg/L				

1. All applications at all sites.
2. Field testing.
3. Field or laboratory testing.
4. Samples shall be collected at three feet below the surface of the water body or at mid water column depth if the depth is less than three feet.
5. Collect samples from a minimum of six application events for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) per year, except for glyphosate. If there are less than six application events in a year, collect samples during each application event for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water).If the results from six consecutive sampling events show concentrations that are less than the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in an environmental setting, sampling shall be reduced to one application event per year for that active ingredient in that environmental setting. If the yearly sampling event shows exceedance of the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in an environmental setting, then sampling shall return to six application events for that active ingredient in each environmental setting. For glyphosate, collect samples from one application event from each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) per year.
6. Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136.
7. 2,4-D, acrolein, dissolved copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone, glyphosate, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, and triclopyr.
8. It [nonylphenol monitoring] is required only when a surfactant is used.

time, and visual and physical parameter monitoring will be undertaken contemporaneously so as to generate a complete record of conditions. This APAP is applicable to both large-scale and small targeted applications; monitoring approaches differ for these event types and are described below.

The background sample is intended to document general pre-treatment conditions. If treatment is generalized across a large area of the Lake (e.g., algaecide application) and it overlaps with a lake monitoring station (Station) see SECTION 8.7), the background samples should be collected at the closest Station to the application site. If treatment is targeted on a small area of the lake (e.g., water lily treatment for a length of shoreline), the specific application target area should be monitored.

Background samples are to be collected within a 24-hour period preceding application.

The during-event sample is intended to assess whether or not the algaecide or herbicide is migrating outside the treatment area within a relatively short duration of time, or is otherwise impacting an area outside the target treatment area. As the Lake generally conforms to conditions of a standing body of water (as opposed to flowing), the during-event monitoring will take place within a time window of no less than 2 but not greater than 20 hours following application at the station adjacent to the respective application area.

The post-event sample will be collected from the area of application one week following completion of the application. Ideally, the post-event sample should be collected from both the same location as the background area sample AND from within the treatment area. Furthermore, if the treatment area overlaps with a Station, that location should be prioritized (but not at the expense of sampling the treatment area).

8.4 Monitoring – Visual

Conditions at the algaecide or herbicide application point will be monitored and logged to document background and post-event conditions. Monitoring will include logging a description of the area, a qualitative description of the receiving water condition, and weather observations. Logs will include the presence of floating or suspended matter, color, visible bottom deposits, a general description of aquatic life, visible films/sheens/coatings, notes of fungi/slime/objectionable growths, and note of potential nuisance conditions. An example log is included in APPENDIX B.

8.5 Monitoring – Physical Parameters

Physical monitoring will, like the visual characterization, be undertaken to document background and post-event conditions. Physical parameters will be measured using calibrated instrumentation such as a Hydrolab or YSI sonde. Real-time data will be recorded on log sheets and include temperature, pH, and conductivity as noted in TABLE 3. Turbidity may be recorded using instrumentation or, alternatively, may be included as a laboratory analysis conducted as part of the chemical monitoring. An example data log is included in APPENDIX B.

8.6 Monitoring Water Chemistry– Grab Sample Collection, Handling, and Analysis

Grab samples will be collected during background, during-event, and post application monitoring events. Grabs will be collected at a depth of 3 feet if the water depth is greater than 6 feet, or at mid-depth if water is shallower. Grab samples will be collected using water sampling equipment (e.g. a van Dorn sampler) and distributed to clean containers supplied by the laboratory. Equipment will be maintained in a clean condition, thoroughly rinsed before and after use, and surfaces coming in contact with sample media rinsed using site-water prior to each deployment. Alternatively, sample containers may be used to collect samples directly or with a pole equipped with a container mount system.

Prior to sample collection, clean sample containers provided by the analytical laboratory will be affixed with labels including the entity collecting the sample, the site name (LSM), the date, and a sample identifier. The sample identifier may use a standardized code, for example, one denoting the

date of the sample, the station location ("A" through "E", see below) and event (e.g., "BG" for background, "ME" for during-event, or "MP" for post event). Filled sample containers will immediately be placed in iced coolers and retained within the custody of the field team. A courier will transport samples to the analytical laboratory no later than 24 hours following sample collection. Temperature blanks will be utilized to document handling conditions during transit, and chain-of-custody documentation will be used to document sample transfers as well as requested analyses.

8.7 Grab Sample Collection and Physical Monitoring Locations

Monitoring Stations have been established at the lake for 5 areas coinciding with the deep lake near the dam (Station A), moderate depth within the lower Lake (Station B), shallow central Lake (Station C), shallow upper central Lake (Station D), and shallow upper basin (Station E) (FIGURE 2). These stations have been monitored on a monthly basis for approximately 5 years, and have served as representative stations per CDC's Lake Investigation Workplan (CDC 2012). These stations will continue to serve as representative stations under this APAP for broad-distribution algaecide and herbicide applications undertaken within respective areas. Prior to broad application of an algaecide or herbicide, the extent of the treatment area will be assessed in the context of monitoring requirements and whether the treatment area(s) overlap with established monitoring stations.

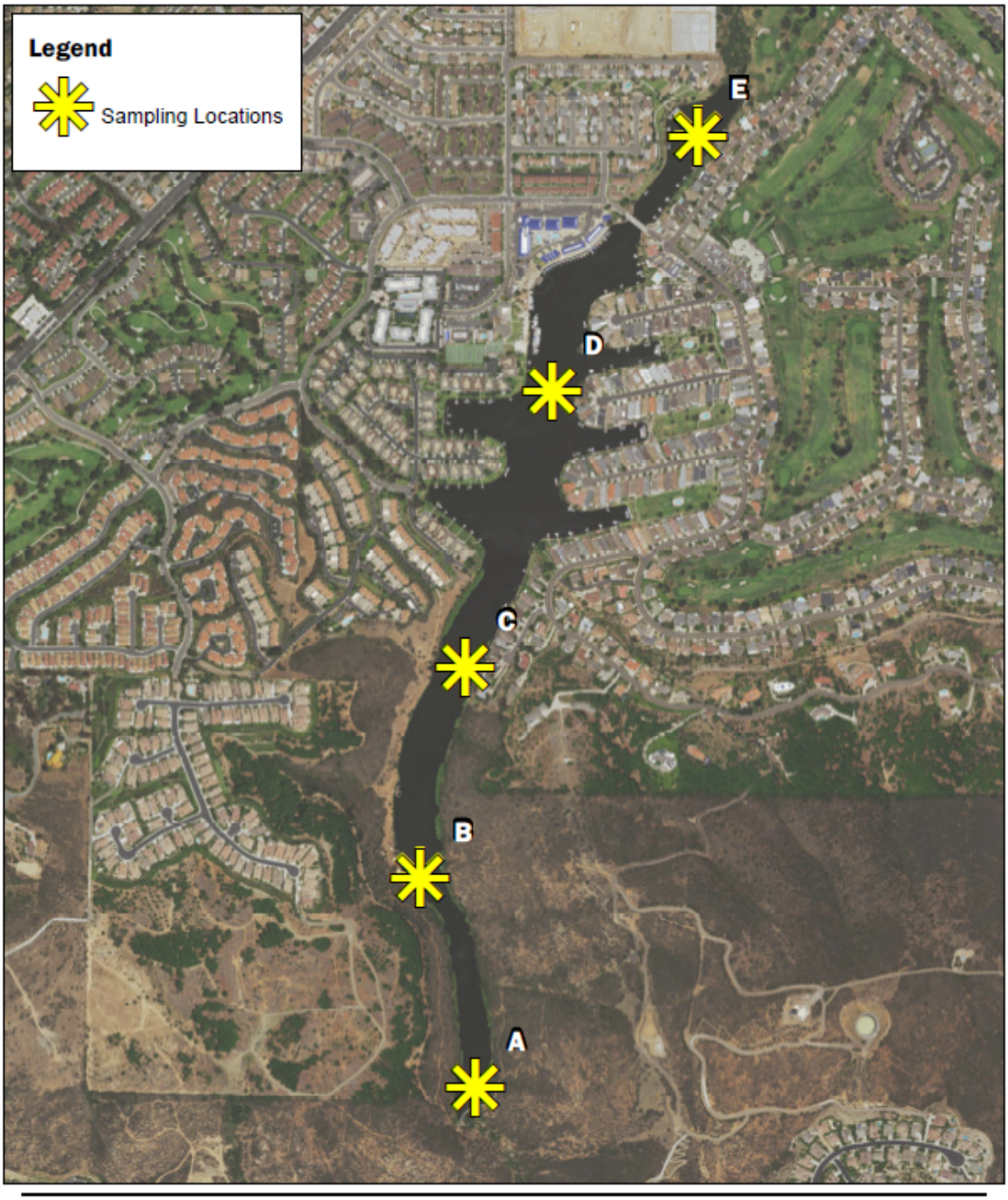
Alternatively, if targeted applications are undertaken and application areas do not overlap with the established monitoring location (e.g., for water lily treatment along the shoreline), the specific treatment areas will be used as sampling locations for the background and post-event monitoring. In this case, the closest available established monitoring station (A through E) will be used for the during-event monitoring.

For the purposes of this monitoring program, single adjacent stations shall be considered representative of during-event conditions. For example, if application is limited to the shallow upper basin, the background sample will be collected at Station E, the during-event sample collected at Station D, and the post-event sample collected from Station E; background and during-event samples will not be necessary at stations A, B, and C. As an alternative example, if algaecides are applied in all areas of the lake with the exception of the dam exclusion zone, background and post-event samples would be collected at Stations B, C, D, and E, and during-event sample(s) would be collected at Station A.

8.8 Quality Assurance

Laboratory analyses will be undertaken by laboratories certified for such analyses by the California Department of Public Health in accordance with California Water Code section 13176. The precision and accuracy of the data will be assessed using data generated from analysis of laboratory duplicates, matrix spikes, surrogates, and laboratory control samples conducted according to laboratory standard operating procedures and in compliance with both EPA-approved methods and laboratory certifications. Field-generated quality control samples will not be collected under this plan. Laboratory data reports will be reviewed to assess the results with the context of laboratory quality assurance analyses, and a data validity assessment included in the annual report.

FIGURE 2. MONITORING STATIONS AT LAKE SAN MARCOS



In addition, the Regional Board-approved Quality Assurance Program Plan documents associated with the CDC's Lake Investigation Workplan (CDC 2012) shall apply to this monitoring program in satisfaction of the requirements included in the Permit (e.g., for instrument calibration).

9.0 Record Keeping and Reporting

9.1 Record Keeping Requirements

Record retention is required under this APAP for all monitoring information, including calibration and maintenance records, copies of all reports, original laboratory reports. Records shall include the date place, and time of sampling or measurements; records of individuals who performed the sampling or measurements, the dates, types, and specific techniques of analyses performed, records of individuals who performed such analyses, and the results of such analyses. Records must be retained for a minimum of three years from the date of sampling, measurement, or report, and may be extended when requested by the Regional Board Executive Officer.

9.2 Annual Reporting

Reporting shall be undertaken annually and submitted by March 30 of each year for the preceding calendar year in compliance with provisions stated in Attachment D of the Permit. If no discharge of algaecides or herbicides were made, a certification will be made in compliance with the Permit (Attachment C, Section C.IV.c). If application was undertaken, the monitoring report will include:

1. An Executive Summary including an indication of compliance or violation of the Permit and provisions in this APAP, and a summary of monitoring results which assess an improvement or degradation of water quality as a result of algaecide or herbicide application;
2. A summary of monitoring data and results presented in comparison to applicable receiving water limitations, and including, if applicable, recommendations on how this APAP may be improved;
3. A discussion of BMP effectiveness, and if applicable modifications to this APAP to address any violations;
4. Maps showing the locations of treatment areas;
5. Types and amounts of algaecides and herbicides used during each application event;
6. Information on surface area and/or volume of treatment area and any other information used to calculate dosage, concentration and quantity for each application;
7. Reporting information concerning information generated in the report including: organizations and individuals responsible for application and monitoring, information and sample collection dates, location information, parameters tested along with quality assurance data, and including summary tables with tabulated results; and
8. Summaries of the application logs.

These reports will be prepared in a manner such that information is clear, concise and readily

discernable and submitted to the Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region as specified in the Permit.

9.3 Non-Compliance Reporting

Non-compliance, including any unexpected or unintended effect of the use of an algaecide or herbicide that may pose a threat to health or the environment, will be reported orally within 24 hours of the incident. A written report of the non-compliance incident will be reported within 5 days. Reports will include information described in Attachment C of the Permit.

10.0 Best Management Practices

A variety of approaches will be used to carry out algaecide and herbicide treatments responsibly, effectively, and in a manner which minimizes impacts.

10.1 Spill Prevention and Containment

Algaecides and herbicides are by nature biologically active substances, and care must be taken to release these chemicals in a manner consistent with instructions. Spill prevention is an important consideration from before the time of procurement or delivery of the algaecide/herbicide, and will be undertaken such that transport, handling, and storage is undertaken by qualified individuals who will follow spill control procedures recommended by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Environmental Protection Agency.

10.2 Application Rate Controls

At the time of application, reliable equipment which has been maintained in a clean and calibrated manner will be used to ensure that the intended dose is delivered and that treatment is not in excess of product manufacturer directions for use.

The timing and manner of treatment will also be considered in advance of application such that:

1. Alternative control methods have been exhausted;
2. Pre-treatment surveys have been conducted to identify the minimum area of treatment;
3. Site- or time-specific conditions are reviewed to ensure that conditions are appropriate for the intended application;
4. Downstream transport potential is minimized or eliminated through timing of application during dry conditions and/or incorporation of the dam-buffer zone;
5. Pesticides are chosen to best address the condition requiring treatment; and
6. Dosage rates are limited to ensure that receiving water limitations are not exceeded and pesticide label instructions are followed.

10.3 Education of Applicator Information

Pesticide applications will be undertaken by California-licensed or –certified applicators; applicators will have completed required initial and continuing education requirements. This plan, with this provision, will be provided to the applicator to ensure compliance with provisions of this APAP.

10.4 Planning and Coordination with Stakeholders

Public agencies will be informed of plans to apply algaecides or herbicides in compliance with provisions outlined in the Permit (Section VIII.B). Notice will be provided at least 15 days in advance of application to the Regional Board, the County of San Diego, and the City of San Marcos at minimum.

Advance coordination with SMGC will be necessary to ensure that irrigation uses are compatible with selected treatments. The SMGC operations staff will be included on communications with public agencies and informed of application plans.

In addition, when the application schedule is developed, information shall be made available to the public via community groups and/or physical postings. Per the provisions of the Permit, the phone number of the Discharger will be made available to respond to questions regarding the application schedule, nature and purpose of application, and water use restrictions.

10.5 Measures to Prevent Fish Kills

Algaecide and herbicide product labels includes dosage rates and treatment information which lists recommended treatments and precautionary information which may prevent unintended effects such as fish kills. Fish kills in the context of this program may be caused if treatment at a high dose results in excess algae or vegetation biomass death. Excessive decay of dead algae or vegetation can deplete dissolved oxygen and cause fish kills. For this reason, the dosage of algaecides and herbicides will be undertaken in compliance with product directions for use, and preventative best management practices undertaken. These measures include:

1. Consideration of the range of recommended dosing and restricting dosages to the lowest practical rate to target the minimum desired effect;
2. Limiting application of algaecides and herbicides to a portion of the Lake when treating heavy bloom conditions so that fish have refuge areas during treatment;
3. Allowing for a delay between treatments to reduce likelihood of impacts to fish; and
4. Apply early in the day to allow for equilibration of oxygen levels during daylight hours.

Application by Qualified Applicator Certificate or License holders have knowledge of the proper equipment operations such that spills scenarios are minimized, applications rates are made according to the product labels, target algae or vegetation is treated effectively, and that the application systems are properly calibrated. These factors all contribute to a minimization of fish kill event likelihood.

11.0 Examination of Alternative Approaches to Nuisance Condition Management

SECTION 5 includes a discussion of management options available at Lake San Marcos including no action, prevention, mechanical or physical methods of removal, cultural and biological methods to address excessive algae or vegetation, and the use of algaecides and herbicides. These factors are all weighed during the assessment phase of the planning process prior to a decision to treat with algaecides or herbicides.

With regard to the current impairments of the Lake, several efforts are underway at the Lake and in the watershed which will significantly decrease nutrient inputs to the Lake system (SECTION 2.1 and DBSA 2016). Final corrective actions are expected to dramatically improve Lake water quality such that impairment conditions are addressed and algaecide and herbicide use is either limited or eliminated.

Key to this evaluation and planning process is an understanding of the extent and magnitude of the impairments, factors contributing to exacerbation of the impairments, and an assessment of how treatment may affect the environment. When feasible and conditions are suitable, alternative control strategies will be implemented. However, when necessary to control nuisance conditions, provisions of this APAP will guide treatment with algaecides or herbicides in compliance with the Permit. The careful evaluation of alternative modes of addressing nuisance conditions will lead to a suite of control measures that have the least impact and simultaneously preserve and enhance beneficial uses.

12.0 REFERENCES

Citizens Development Corporation. 2012. Lake San Marcos Nutrient Impairments Investigation Workplan. June 2012.

D. B. Stephens & Associates (DBSA), 2016. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report, Upper San Marcos Creek Watershed and Lake San Marcos. Prepared for Citizens Development Corporation and Public Agency Defendants. September 30.

Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region. 2011. Investigative Order No. R9-2011-0033, For the Investigation of Nutrient Impairment in Lake San Marcos San Diego County. September 14.

Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region. 2013a. Order No. R9-2013-0001 NPDES No. CAS0109266. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit And Waste Discharge Requirements For Discharges From The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Draining The Watersheds Within The San Diego Region. May 23.

Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region. 2017. Resolution No. R9-2017-0038, A Resolution Supporting The Path Forward For Nutrient Load Reductions In Lake San Marcos And The San Marcos Creek Watershed. March 15.

Solvay America, Inc. 2013. Product Safety Summary, Sodium Percarbonate (Sodium Carbonate Peroxyhydrate), CAS No. 15630-89-4.

State Water Resources Control Board. 2013. Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Waters of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications. Water Quality Order No. 2013-0002-DWQ General Permit No. CAG990005 (As amended by Orders 2014-0078-DWQ, 2015-0029-DWQ, and 2016-0073-EXEC). Adopted March 5.

APPENDIX A:

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS; WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ; GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

CORRECTION – 7/27/2016
Typographical Error – Changed Order Number From 2016-0074-EXEC to 2016-0073-EXEC

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
ORDER 2016-0073-EXEC

AMENDING

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2013-0002-DWQ
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG 990005
(AS AMENDED BY ORDERS 2014-0078-DWQ AND 2015-0029-DWQ)

STATEWIDE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES
TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND
AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

The State of California, Water Resources Control Board (hereafter State Water Board) finds:

1. The State Water Board is authorized to prescribe statewide general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for categories of discharges that involve the same or similar operations and the same or similar types of waste pursuant to the California Water Code section 13263(i).

2. On September 22, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) granted the State of California, through the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the authority to issue general NPDES permits pursuant to title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) parts 122 and 123.

3. Section 122.28 of 40 C.F.R. provides for issuance of general permits to regulate a category of point sources if the sources involve the same or substantially similar types of operations; discharge the same type of waste; require the same type of effluent limitations or operating conditions; require similar monitoring; and are more appropriately regulated under a general order rather than individual permits.

4. On March 5, 2013, the State Water Board adopted Water Quality Order 2013-0002-DWQ (later amended by Orders 2014-0078-DWQ on May 20, 2014 and 2015-0029-DWQ on March 3, 2015), Statewide NPDES Permits for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Waters of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications (hereafter Weed Control Permit). The State Water Board amended Order 2013-0002-DWQ through Order 2014-0078-DWQ on May 20, 2014 and Order 2015-0029-DWQ on March 3, 2015. The Weed Control Permit covers the point source discharge of residual pesticides resulting from pesticide applications for aquatic weed control. The Weed Control Permit covers only pesticides that are approved for aquatic use by U.S. EPA and registered by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for aquatic applications in accordance with specific application rates.

5. Section III.B of the Weed Control Permit provides delegation authority from the State Water Board to the Executive Director for the following actions:

a. Amend the permit to add new active ingredients currently registered by DPR for the control of aquatic weeds; and

b. Add Dischargers to the list of public agencies in permit Attachment G that have satisfactorily completed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and been granted an exception from meeting receiving water limitations for pesticide active ingredients that are priority pollutants in accordance with section 5.3 of the State Water Board Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (SIP).

6. The discharge of residual aquatic pesticides with the following active ingredients is permitted with coverage under the Weed Control Permit: 2,4-D, acrolein, calcium hypochlorite, copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone, glyphosate, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, sodium hypochlorite, and triclopyr-based algaecides and aquatic herbicides, and adjuvants containing ingredients represented by the surrogate nonylphenol.

7. The State Water Board granted exceptions to public agencies and mutual water companies that met the criteria stated in SIP section 5.3 for short-term or seasonal exceptions from meeting the receiving water limitations for priority pollutants of acrolein and copper.

8. This item proposes the following amendments to the Weed Control Permit:

   a. Add the City of Sacramento, City of Poway, Helix Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, Santa Fe Irrigation District, and Sweetwater Authority to Attachment G which lists dischargers excepted from meeting receiving water limitations for acrolein or copper in accordance with SIP section 5.3. These agencies have satisfactorily completed the required CEQA process for exceptions to copper receiving water limits.

   b. Modify the SIP exception for Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (District) in Attachment G to add a SIP exception for copper to the District's current SIP exception for acrolein. Attachment G lists dischargers receiving exceptions to meeting receiving water limitations for acrolein or copper in accordance with SIP section 5.3. The District has satisfactorily completed the required CEQA process.

   c. Add the pesticide active ingredient flumioxazin. DPR approved the use of pesticide products containing this active ingredient for aquatic use in the state in 2014.

   d. Add the pesticide active ingredients hydrogen peroxide and peroxyacetic acid. DPR approved the use of pesticide products containing these active ingredients for aquatic use in the state in 2002.

9. Interested parties were invited to comment on the proposed permit amendments in response to the 30 day public notice of the amended permit issued on February 23, 2016. The Executive Director considered all comments received during the public notice period, and, where necessary, revised the proposed permit amendment accordingly prior to authorizing the amendments.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Pursuant to the authority delegated by Water Code section 13267(f), Resolution 2002-0104, and Order 2015-0029-DWQ, Order 2013-0002-DWQ is hereby amended as shown in Attachment A.

6/30/16
Dated

Thomas Howard
Executive Director

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/aquatic.shtml

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2013-0002-DWQ (AS AMENDED BY ORDERS 2014-0078-DWQ, 2015-0029-DWQ, AND 2016-0073-EXEC)

GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

The following Dischargers may apply for coverage under this General Permit in compliance with the waste discharge requirements as set forth in this General Permit:

Table 1. Discharger Information

Dischargers	Any entity that discharges residual algaecides and aquatic herbicide and their degradation byproducts to waters of the United States* from algae and aquatic weed control applications.

Table 2. Administrative Information

This General Permit was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter State Water Board) on:	**March 5, 2013**
This General Permit shall become effective on:	**December 1, 2013**
This General Permit shall expire on:	**November 30, 2018**
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Board have classified this discharge as a **minor** discharge.	

I, Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board, do hereby certify that this General Permit with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the General Permit adopted by the State Water Board on March 5, 2013.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

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I. DISCHARGE INFORMATION

Pesticide formulations may include "active ingredients"* and "inert ingredients."* Adjuvants* or surfactants may be added to the ingredients in the application equipment used in delivery of the pesticide. As part of the registration process of pesticides for use in California, U.S. EPA and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) evaluate data submitted by registrants to ensure that a product used according to label instructions will cause no harm or adverse impact on non-target organisms that cannot be reduced or mitigated with protective measures or use restrictions. The Clean Water Act (CWA) section 301(a) broadly prohibits the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States, except in compliance with an NPDES permit. Residual pesticides* discharged into surface waters constitute pollutants within the meaning of the CWA even if the discharge is in compliance with the registration requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Therefore, coverage under an NPDES permit is required.

The discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues to surface waters for algae and aquatic weed control throughout the State of California may pose a threat to existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the United States if not properly controlled and regulated.

This General Permit regulates the discharge of aquatic pesticides* (algaecides and aquatic herbicides) used for algae and aquatic weed control to waters of the United States. These are algaecides and aquatic herbicides with registration labels that explicitly allow direct application to water bodies.

II. PERMIT COVERAGE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Permit Coverage

Except for discharges on tribal lands that are regulated by a federal permit, this General Permit covers the point source* discharge to waters of the United States of residues resulting from pesticide applications using products containing 2,4-D, acrolein, calcium hypochlorite, copper, diquat, endothall, flumioxazin, fluridone, glyphosate, hydrogen peroxide, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, peroxyacetic acid, sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, sodium hypochlorite, and triclopyr-based algaecides and aquatic herbicides, and adjuvants containing ingredients represented by the surrogate nonylphenol. This General Permit covers only discharges of algaecides, and aquatic herbicides that are currently registered for use in California, or that become registered for use and contain the above-listed active ingredients and ingredients represented by the surrogate of nonylphenol.

* An asterisk means the term is defined in Attachment A. This applies to all sections of this General permit.

This General Permit does not cover agricultural storm water discharges or return flows from irrigated agriculture because these discharges are not defined as "point sources" and do not require coverage under an NPDES permit. This General Permit also does not cover other indirect or nonpoint source discharges from applications of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, including discharges of pesticides to land that may be conveyed in storm water or irrigation runoff.

As shown in Table 1, this General Permit becomes effective on December 1, 2013. To obtain coverage under this General Permit on or after that date, Dischargers must submit their application for coverage as set forth in Section II.C below, at least 90 days prior to their first pesticide application.

B. **Discharger**

A Discharger under this General Permit includes any entity involved in the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that results in a discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues and degradation byproducts to waters of the United States, and meets either or both of the following two criteria:

The entity has control over the financing for or the decision to perform algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications that result in discharges, including the ability to modify those decisions; or

The entity has day-to-day control of algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications or performs activities that are necessary to ensure compliance with this General Permit. For example, the entity is authorized to direct workers to carry out activities required by this General Permit or perform such activities themselves.

C. **General Permit Application**

To obtain authorization under this General Permit, Dischargers must submit to the State Water Board a complete application that consists of the following:

1. A Notice of Intent (NOI) shown as Attachment E, signed in accordance with the signatory requirements of the Standard Provisions in Attachment B;
2. An application fee. A fee is required only for new Dischargers. Dischargersenrolled under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ and applying for coverage under this Permit will be billed during the regular billing cycle; and
3. An Aquatic Pesticide* Application Plan (APAP).

A Discharger proposing to apply algaecides and aquatic herbicides in multiple Water Board regions shall submit one NOI, one APAP, and one filing fee. The Discharger shall indicate in the NOI all the Water Board regions where applications are planned. The Discharger shall address all required elements of the APAP for all areas in the state where discharges are proposed.

Within 90 days of receipt of an application, the State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality (Deputy Director) will either issue a Notice of Applicability (NOA) or deny the application. The NOA will specify the permitted algaecide and aquatic herbicide active ingredients that may be used, and any region-specific conditions and requirements not stated in this General Permit. Any such region-specific conditions and requirements shall be enforceable. The Discharger is authorized to discharge starting on the date of the NOA.

Alternatively, the Deputy Director or a Regional Water Board Executive Officer may issue a Notice of Exclusion (NOE),[1] which either terminates the permit coverage or requires submittal of an application for an individual permit or alternative general permit.

D. **Fees**

The fee for enrollment under this General Permit shall be based on section 2200(b)(9) category 3 of title 23, California Code of Regulations, which is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/docs/fy1112fee_schdl_npdes_prmt.pdf and is payable to the State Water Board.

E. **Terminating Coverage**

To terminate permit coverage, a Discharger must submit a complete and accurate Notice of Termination (NOT) provided in Attachment F. The Discharger's authorization to discharge under this General Permit terminates on the day of the coverage termination letter issued by the Deputy Director. Prior to the termination effective date, the Discharger is subject to the terms and conditions of this General Permit and is responsible for submitting the annual fee and all reports associated with this General Permit.

A Discharger must submit an NOT when one of the following conditions occurs:

1. A new operator has taken over responsibility of the Discharger's algae or aquatic weed control activities covered under an existing NOA;
2. The Discharger has ceased all discharges from the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicide for which it obtained General Permit coverage and does not expect to discharge during the remainder of this General Permit term; or

[1] An NOE is a one-page notice that indicates and justifies why the Discharger or proposed Discharger is not eligible for coverage under this General Permit and states the reason why. This justification can include, but is not limited to, necessity to comply with a total maximum daily load or to protect sensitive water bodies. The NOE can also indicate that the coverage is denied if feasible alternatives to the selected pesticide application project are not analyzed.

3. The Discharger has obtained coverage under an individual permit or an alternative general permit for all discharges required to be covered by an NPDES permit.

III. FINDINGS

The Fact Sheet (Attachment D), which contains the background information and rationale for the requirements in this General Permit, is hereby incorporated into this General Permit and constitutes its findings. All other attachments (A, B, C, and E through G) are also incorporated into this General Permit.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this General Permit supersedes Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ except for enforcement purposes, and in order to meet the provisions contained in division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with § 13000) and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the CWA and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder:

A. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements in this Order.

B. The Executive Director is authorized to amend this Order to add active ingredients that are registered by DPR for the control of aquatic weeds, and to grant exceptions pursuant to section 5.3 of the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (SIP).

IV. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

A. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides in a manner different from that described in this General Permit is prohibited.

B. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides shall not create a nuisance as defined in section 13050 of the California Water Code.

C. The discharge shall not cause, have a reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above any applicable standard or criterion promulgated by U.S. EPA pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, or water quality objective adopted by the State or Regional Water Boards.

D. All pesticides are prohibited from the waters of the Lahontan Region (Region 6). The use of this permit is invalid in the Lahontan Region unless the discharger has requested a prohibition exemption from the Lahontan Water Board and the Lahontan Water Board has granted an exemption for the use of algaecides or aquatic herbicides.

V. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

A. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides must meet applicable water quality standards; and

B. Dischargers shall implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) when applying aquatic algaecides and aquatic herbicides. The BMPs must be provided in the APAP which is described in Section VIII.C below.

VI. RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

The discharge shall not result in any of the following:

A. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides shall not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the following limitations in the receiving water:

Table 3. Receiving Water Limitations

Constituent/ Parameter	BENEFICIAL USE[1]				Basis
	MUN, µg/L	WARM or COLD, µg/L	Other than MUN, WARM, or COLD, µg/L	All Designations	
2,4-D	70				U.S. EPA MCL
Acrolein[2]	320	21	780		U.S. EPA Water Quality Criteria, 1986.
Chlorine		Freshwater Acute Criterion = 20 µg/L			U.S. EPA's Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Freshwater Aquatic Life Protection
		Saltwater Acute Criterion = < 10 µg/L			California Ocean Plan
Copper[2]				Dissolved Freshwater[3] Copper Chronic = 0.960exp{0.8545 [ln(hardness[4])] – 1.702}[5, 6] Dissolved Saltwater[3] Copper Chronic = 3.1 µg/L [5,6]	California Toxics Rule
Diquat	20				U.S. EPA MCL
Endothall	100				U.S. EPA MCL
Fluridone	560				U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System
Glyphosate	700				U.S. EPA MCL
Nonylphenol				Freshwater Chronic Criterion = 6.6 µg/L Saltwater Chronic Criterion = 1.7 µg/L	U.S. EPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria
Toxicity	Algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications shall not cause or contribute to toxicity in receiving water(s).				Regional Water Boards' Basin Plans

Notes:
1. See Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for beneficial use definitions.
2. Public entities and mutual water companies* listed in Attachment G are not required to meet these limitations in receiving waters during the exception period described in the APAP and Section VIII.C.10 below.
3. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or less than 1 part per thousand 95% or more of the time, the freshwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or greater than 10 parts per thousand 95% or more of the time, saltwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is between 1 and 10 parts per thousand, the applicable criteria are the more stringent of the freshwater or saltwater criteria.
4. For freshwater aquatic life criteria, waters with a hardness 400 mg/L or less as calcium carbonate, the actual ambient hardness of surface water shall be used. For waters with a hardness of over 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate, a hardness of 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate shall be used with a default Water-Effect Ratio of 1.
5. Values should be rounded to two significant figures.
6. This limitation does not apply to the Sacramento River and its tributaries above the State Highway 32 Bridge at Hamilton City. See Table III-1 of the Basin Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins for copper limitation.

B. **Dissolved Oxygen.** Dissolved oxygen to be below the Regional Water Board Basin Plans' dissolved oxygen objectives for the receiving water.

C. **Floating Material.** Floating material to be present in the amounts that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

D. **Settleable Substances.** Settleable substances to be present in concentrations that result in the deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses.

E. **Suspended Material.** Suspended material to be present in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

F. **Taste and Odors.** Taste- or odor-producing substances to be present in concentrations that impart undesirable tastes or odors to fish flesh or other edible products of aquatic origin, or that cause nuisance, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses or domestic or municipal water supplies.

G. **Toxic Pollutants.** Toxic pollutants to be present in the water column, sediments, or biota in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses; that produce detrimental response in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life; or that bioaccumulate in aquatic resources at levels which are harmful to human health.

H. **Color.** Esthetically undesirable discoloration.

I. **Aquatic Communities.** Aquatic communities and populations, including vertebrates, invertebrates, and non-target plant species to be degraded.

VII. RECEIVING WATER MONITORING TRIGGERS

In the absence of Receiving Water Limitations, the Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers shown in Table 4 below will be used to assess compliance with the narrative receiving water toxicity limitation. However, exceeding the monitoring trigger does not constitute a violation of this General Permit as long as the Discharger performs the following actions: (1) initiates additional investigations for the cause of the exceedance; (2) implements

additional BMPs to reduce the algaecide and aquatic herbicide residue concentration to be below the monitoring triggers in future applications; and (3) evaluates the appropriateness of using alternative products.

Table 4. Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers

Ingredient	Unit	Instantaneous Maximum Monitoring Trigger	Basis
Imazapyr	mg/L	11.2	U.S. EPA Office of Pesticides *Ecotoxicity Database*
Triclopyr Triethylamine	mg/L	13.0	U.S. EPA Office of Pesticides *Ecotoxicity Database*
Flumioxazin	mg/l	0.23	U.S. EPA Office of Pesticides *Ecotoxicity Database*

VIII. AQUATIC PESTICIDE USE REQUIREMENTS

A. Application Schedule

The Discharger shall provide a phone number or other specific contact information to all persons who request the Discharger's application schedule. The Discharger shall provide the requester with the most current application schedule and inform the requester if the schedule is subject to change. Information may be made available by electronic means, including posting prominently on a well-known website.

B. Public Notice Requirements

Every calendar year, at least 15 days prior to the first application of algaecide or aquatic herbicide, the Discharger shall notify potentially affected public agencies. The Discharger shall post the notification on its website if available. The notification shall include the following information:

1. A statement of the discharger's intent to apply algaecide or aquatic herbicide(s);
2. Name of algaecide and aquatic herbicide(s);
3. Purpose of use;
4. General time period and locations of expected use;
5. Any water use restrictions or precautions during treatment; and
6. A phone number that interested persons may call to obtain additional information from the Discharger.

C. Aquatic Pesticides Application Plan (APAP)

Dischargers shall submit an APAP at least 90 days before the expected day of permit coverage. The APAP shall contain, but not be limited to, the following elements sufficient to address each proposed treatment area:*

1. Description of the water system to which algaecides and aquatic herbicides are being applied;
2. Description of the treatment area in the water system;
3. Description of types of weed(s) and algae that are being controlled and why;
4. Algaecide and aquatic herbicide products or types of algaecides and aquatic herbicides expected to be used and if known their degradation byproducts, the method in which they are applied, and if applicable, the adjuvants and surfactants used;
5. Discussion of the factors influencing the decision to select algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications for algae and weed control;
6. If applicable, list the gates or control structures to be used to control the extent of receiving waters potentially affected by algaecide and aquatic herbicide application and provide an inspection schedule of those gates or control structures to ensure they are not leaking;
7. If the Discharger has been granted a short-term or seasonal exception under State Water Board *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays,* and Estuaries of California* (Policy) section 5.3 from meeting acrolein and copper receiving water limitations, provide the beginning and ending dates of the exception period, and justification for the needed time for the exception. If algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications occur outside of the exception period, describe plans to ensure that receiving water criteria are not exceeded because the Dischargers must comply with the acrolein and copper receiving water limitations for all applications that occur outside of the exception period;
8. Description of monitoring program;
9. Description of procedures used to prevent sample contamination from persons, equipment, and vehicles associated with algaecide and aquatic herbicide application;
10. Description of the BMPs to be implemented. The BMPs shall include, at the minimum:
    a. Measures to prevent algaecide and aquatic herbicide spill and for spill containment during the event of a spill;
    b. Measures to ensure that only an appropriate rate of application consistent with product label requirements is applied for the targeted weeds or algae;
    c. The Discharger's plan in educating its staff and algaecide and aquatic herbicide applicators on how to avoid any potential adverse effects* from the algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications;
    d. Discussion on planning and coordination with nearby farmers and agencies with water rights diversion so that beneficial uses of the water (irrigation,

drinking water supply, domestic stock water, etc.) are not impacted during the treatment period; and

e. A description of measures that will be used for preventing fish kill when algaecides and aquatic herbicides will be used for algae and aquatic weed controls.

11. Examination of Possible Alternatives. Dischargers should examine the alternatives to algaecide and aquatic herbicide use to reduce the need for applying algaecides and herbicides. Such methods include:

    a. Evaluating the following management options, in which the impact to water quality, impact to non-target organisms including plants, algaecide and aquatic herbicide resistance, feasibility, and cost effectiveness should be considered:

        i. No action;

        ii. Prevention;

        iii. Mechanical or physical methods;

        iv. Cultural methods;

        v. Biological control agents; and

        vi. Algaecides and aquatic herbicides;

        If there are no alternatives to algaecides and aquatic herbicides, Dischargers shall use the minimum amount of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that is necessary to have an effective control program and is consistent with the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product label requirements.

    b. Using the least intrusive method of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application; and

    c. Applying a decision matrix concept to the choice of the most appropriate formulation.

D. APAP Processing, Approval, and Modifications

Upon receipt of an APAP, staff will post it on the State Water Board's website for a 30-day public comment period[2] and will distribute a notice via the State Water Board's Lyris list that an APAP has been posted. Staff will coordinate with Regional Water Board staff in reviewing the application package for completeness and applicability to this General Permit. If no comments are received and State and Regional Water Board staff deem the APAP complete, the Deputy Director will issue an NOA within five (5) working days of closure of the comment period. If comments are received, staff will work with Regional Water Board staff and the Discharger to address the

[2] See Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. v. EPA, 399 F.3d 486 (2nd Cir. 2005).

comments to allow the Deputy Director to issue an NOA as expeditiously as possible. Permit coverage will begin when the Discharger receives the NOA.

Major changes to the APAP shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for approval. Examples of major changes include using a different product other than what is specified in the APAP, changing an application method that may result in different amounts of pesticides being applied, or adding or deleting BMPs.

E. Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Application Log

The Discharger shall maintain a log for each algaecide and aquatic herbicide application. The application log shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Date of application;
2. Location of application;
3. Name of applicator;
4. Type and amount of algaecide and aquatic herbicide used;
5. Application details, such as flow and level of water body, time application started and stopped, algaecide and aquatic herbicide application rate and concentration;
6. Visual monitoring assessment; and
7. Certification that applicator(s) followed the APAP.

IX. PROVISIONS

A. Standard Provisions

1. All Dischargers authorized to discharge under this General Permit shall comply with the Federal Standard Provisions included in Attachment B of this General Permit.
2. This General Permit does not authorize the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides or their degradation byproducts to waters of the United States that are impaired by the active ingredient of the algaecides and herbicides used. Impaired waters are those waters not meeting water quality standards pursuant to section 303(d) of the CWA. California impaired waters are listed on: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/2010state_ir_reports/2010_combo303d.xls.
3. This General Permit does not authorize any take of endangered species. The discharge is prohibited from adversely impacting biologically sensitive or critical habitats, including, but not limited to, habitat of species listed under federal or state endangered species laws. To ensure that endangered species issues are raised to the responsible agencies, the State Water Board has notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife of this General Permit.

4. The State Water Board may use this General Permit to regulate the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues to a surface water classified as Outstanding National Resource Waters or as a water body impaired by unknown toxicity only after the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the proposed project will comply with the limitations and discharge requirements specified in the General Permit; and (2) if required, the proposed algaecide and aquatic herbicide application qualifies for and has been granted a Basin Plan prohibition exception prior to discharge. The two bodies of water that are classified as Outstanding National Resource Waters in California are Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake.
5. The Discharger must follow all FIFRA pesticide label instructions and any Restricted Material Use Permits issued by a County Agricultural Commissioner.
6. All adjuvants used with the algaecides and aquatic herbicides must be labeled for aquatic use.
7. The Discharger must comply with effluent and receiving water limitations and must develop and implement an APAP.
8. To reduce the potential impacts to water quality, Dischargers shall implement the feasible alternatives to algaecide and aquatic herbicide use that are identified in the APAP.
9. All Dischargers authorized to discharge under this General Permit shall comply with discharge prohibitions and other requirements contained in Basin Plans, as implemented by the State and the nine Regional Water Boards.
10. All Dischargers authorized to discharge under this General Permit shall comply with the following provisions:
    a. After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this General Permit may be terminated or modified for cause, including, but not limited to:
        i. Violation of any term or condition contained in this General Permit;
        ii. Obtaining this General Permit by misrepresentation or by failing to disclose fully all relevant facts;
        iii. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge; and
        iv. A material change in the character, location, or volume of discharge (if applicable).
    b. The provisions of this General Permit are severable. If any provision of this General Permit is found invalid, the remainder of this General Permit shall not be affected.
    c. The Discharger shall maintain a copy of this General Permit and make it available at all times to operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with its content.

d. Laboratories that perform sample analyses must be identified in all monitoring reports submitted to the State and Regional Water Boards.

e. All monitoring and analysis instruments and devices used by the Discharger to fulfill the prescribed monitoring program shall be properly maintained and calibrated based on manufacturer's recommendations to ensure their continued accuracy.

f. Each Discharger shall file with the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board technical reports on self monitoring* performed according to the detailed specifications contained in the Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to this General Permit.

g. The State and Regional Water Board are authorized to enforce the terms of this General Permit under provisions of the California Water Code, including, but not limited to, sections 13385, 13386, and 13387.

B. Monitoring and Reporting Program Requirements

The Discharger shall comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program, and future revisions thereto, in Attachment C of this General Permit.

C. Special Provisions

1. Reopener Provisions

This General Permit may be reopened for modification and reissuance in accordance with the provisions contained in title 40 Code Federal Regulation (40 C.F.R.) section 122.62, and for the following reasons:

a. **Addition to the Public Entity List**. This General Permit may be reopened to modify Attachment G if any additional entity becomes qualified for a Policy section 5.3 exception.

b. **Addition of Aquatic Pesticide Active Ingredients**. This General Permit may be reopened to add additional algaecide and aquatic herbicide active ingredients if new active ingredients are registered by U.S. EPA and DPR.

c. **Acute and Chronic Toxicity.** If the State Water Board revises the Policy toxicity control provisions that would require new implementation procedures including the establishment of numeric chronic toxicity limitations, this General Permit may be reopened to include numeric acute and/or chronic toxicity receiving water limitations based on the new provisions.

d. **Receiving Water Limitations.** This General Permit may be reopened to add numeric Receiving Water Limitations for the residual algaecide and aquatic herbicides* exceeding the triggers if the additional investigation results show necessary.

e. **Endangered Species Act**. If U.S. EPA develops biological opinions regarding algaecides and aquatic herbicides included in this General Permit,

this General Permit may be re-opened to add or modify Receiving Water Limitations/Monitoring Triggers for aquatic herbicides and algaecides and their residues of concern, if necessary.

f. This General Permit covers the application of pesticides that are based on active ingredients that are currently registered by DPR for the control of algae and aquatic weeds. When DPR registers a new active ingredient for algae and aquatic weed control, this General Permit needs to be reopened to add the new active ingredient to the permit before Dischargers may begin using the active ingredient. In addition, when DPR registers a new active ingredient that is also a priority pollutant and has been added to this General Permit, this General Permit may also be reopened to allow Dischargers to obtain an exception from meeting receiving water limitations for the priority pollutant in accordance with SIP section 5.3. It is very resource intensive to have the State Water Board amend this General Permit on a frequent basis. Thus, this General Permit contains a delegation from the State Water Board to the Executive Director to amend this General Permit for these two purposes.

2. **Change of Discharger**

In the event of any change in the Discharger that has obtained coverage under this General Permit, the previous Discharger shall notify the new Discharger of the existence of this General Permit by letter. A copy of the letter shall be immediately forwarded to the Deputy Director. After receipt of the letter, the Deputy Director will terminate the permit coverage to the previous Discharger. The new Discharger shall complete and submit to the Deputy Director a revised NOI form (Attachment E), and any revisions to the APAP prepared by the previous control entity or a new APAP.

3. **Application Package**

Dischargers who seek coverage under this General Permit shall file a complete application package at least 90 days before the expected date of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application. The application package shall include an NOI, APAP, and application fee. Enrolled Dischargers will be billed annually thereafter.

4. **Special Studies, Technical Reports, and Additional Monitoring Requirements**

a. **Additional Investigation**

Each Discharger must conduct additional investigations when the chemical monitoring shows exceedance of any receiving water limitation or monitoring trigger. The additional investigations shall identify corrective actions to eliminate exceedance of receiving water limitations or monitoring triggers caused by the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application. The investigation shall include, but not be limited to evaluating the need to implement one or more of the following actions: revising and improving the existing BMPs,

revising the mode of application, using less toxic algaecide and aquatic herbicide products, or selecting alternative methods for algae and aquatic weed control.

b. **Qualified Biologist Certification Following Project Completion**

Upon completion of an algaecide and aquatic herbicide project, public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G of this General Permit shall provide certification by a qualified biologist* that beneficial uses of receiving waters have been restored.

5. **Corrective Action**

a. **Exceedance of Receiving Water Limitations or Monitoring Triggers.**

If a Receiving Water Limitation in Table 3 or a Monitoring Trigger in Table 4 is exceeded in the Event or Post-Event sample, the Discharger shall perform the following actions: (1) initiate additional investigations for the cause of the exceedance, (2) implement appropriate BMPs to reduce the algaecide and aquatic herbicide concentration to be below the applicable receiving water limitation or monitoring triggers in future applications, and (3) evaluate the appropriateness of using alternative products.

b. **Revision of Control Measures.**

If any of the following situations occur, the Discharger must review and, as necessary, revise the evaluation and selection of the control measures to ensure that the situation is eliminated and will not be repeated in the future:

i. An unauthorized release or discharge associated with the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides (e.g., spill, leak, or discharge not authorized by this or another NPDES permit) occurs;

ii. The Discharger becomes aware, or the State Water Board concludes, that the control measures are not adequate/sufficient for the discharge to meet applicable water quality standards;

iii. Any monitoring activities indicate that the Discharger failed to:

a) Follow the label instructions for the product used;

b) Use the minimum amount of algaecide and aquatic herbicide product per application and optimum frequency of algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications that are necessary for an effective control program consistent with reducing the potential for development of resistance and the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product label requirements;

c) Perform regular maintenance activities to reduce leaks, spills, or other unintended discharges of algaecides and aquatic herbicides

associated with the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides covered under this General Permit; or

d) Maintain algaecide and aquatic herbicide application equipment in proper operating condition by adhering to any manufacturer's conditions and industry practices, and by calibrating, cleaning, and repairing such equipment on a regular basis to ensure effective algaecide and aquatic herbicide application and algae and aquatic weed control. The Discharger must ensure that the equipment's rate of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application is calibrated to deliver the minimum quantity of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that is needed to have an effective control program and is consistent with the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product label requirements.

c. **Corrective Action Deadlines**

If the Discharger determines that changes to the control measures are necessary to eliminate any situation identified above, the Discharger shall make such changes within 60 days. The Discharger shall take the corrective action before any further discharge of the algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues will be allowed.

d. **Effect of Corrective Action**

The occurrence of a situation identified in Section C.5.b above may constitute a violation of this General Permit. Correcting the situation according to Corrective Action Section C.5.c above does not absolve the Discharger of liability for any original violation. However, failure to comply with any Corrective Action as required by Section C.5.c above constitutes an additional permit violation. The State and Regional Water Boards will consider the appropriateness and promptness of corrective action in determining enforcement responses to permit violations.

The State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Boards may impose additional requirements and schedules of compliance, including requirements to submit additional information concerning the condition(s) triggering corrective action or schedules and requirements more stringent than specified in this General Permit. Those requirements and schedules will supersede those in the Corrective Action Section above if such requirements conflict.

6. **Adverse Incident to Threatened or Endangered Species or Critical Habitat**

If the Discharger becomes aware of an adverse incident* to a federally-listed threatened or endangered species or its federally-designated critical habitat, that may have resulted from the Discharger's algaecides and aquatic herbicides application, the Discharger must immediately notify the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Santa Rosa office by phone at (707) 575-6050 in the case of an anadromous or marine species, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at (916) 414-6600 in the case of a terrestrial or freshwater species. This notification

must be made by telephone immediately when the Discharger becomes aware of the adverse incident and must include at least the following information:

a. The caller's name, telephone number, and e-mail address;

b. Applicator name and mailing address;

c. The name of the affected species;

d. How and when the Discharger became aware of the adverse incident;

e. Description of the location of the adverse incident;

f. Description of the adverse incident, including the U.S. EPA pesticide registration number for each product applied in the area of the adverse incident; and

g. Description of any steps that have been taken or will be taken to alleviate the adverse impact to the species.

Additional information on federally-listed threatened or endangered species and federally-designated critical habitat is available from NMFS (www.nmfs.noaa.gov) for anadromous or marine species or FWS (www.fws.gov) for terrestrial or freshwater species.

X. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Compliance with receiving water limitations and monitoring triggers shall be determined through event and post-event monitoring results.

Attachment A – Definitions

Active Ingredient
Active ingredients are ingredients disclosed by manufacturers that yield toxic effects* on target organisms.

Adjuvants
Adjuvants are ingredients that are mixed with herbicides prior to an application event and are often trade secrets. These ingredients are chosen by the Discharger, based on site characteristics, and typically increase the effectiveness of pesticides on target organisms.

Adverse Incident
Adverse Incident means a situation where the Discharger observes upon inspection or becomes aware of in which**:**

- A person or non-target organism may have been exposed to an algaecide or aquatic herbicide residue; and
- The person or non-target organism suffered an adverse or toxic effect.

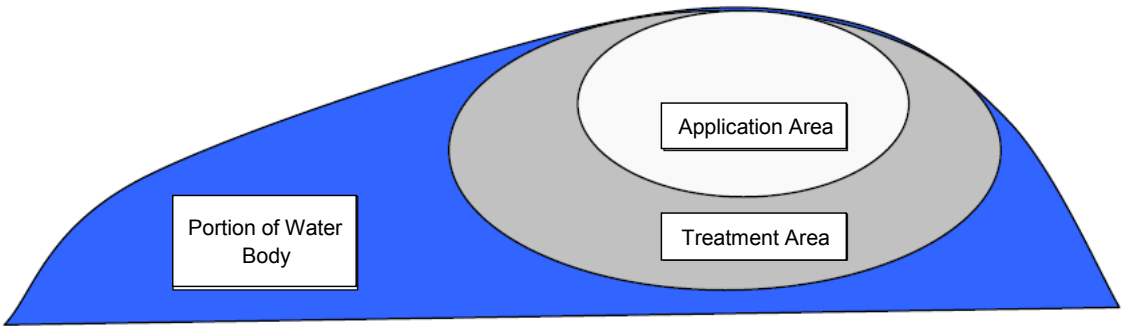
Adverse or Toxic Effect
An "adverse or toxic effect" includes any impact that occurs within waters of the United States on non-target organisms as a result of algaecide or aquatic herbicide residue discharge. Examples of these effects may include:

- Distressed or dead juvenile and small fishes
- Washed up or floating fish
- Fish swimming abnormally or erratically
- Fish lying lethargically at water surface or in shallow water
- Fish that are listless or nonresponsive to disturbance
- Stunting, wilting, or desiccation of non-target submerged or emergent aquatic plants
- Other dead or visibly distressed non-target aquatic organisms (amphibians, turtles, invertebrates, etc.)

An "adverse or toxic effect" also includes any adverse effects to humans (e.g., skin rashes) or domesticated animals that occur either directly or indirectly from a discharge to waters of the United States that are temporally and spatially related to exposure to an algaecide and aquatic herbicide residue (e.g., vomiting, lethargy).

Algae Control
Algae control means the treatment of filamentous algae, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), or algal species that have the potential to affect human or environmental health.

Application Area
The application area is the area to which aquatic pesticides are directly applied.



Application Event
The application event is the time that introduction of the algaecide or aquatic herbicide to the treatment area takes place, not the length of time that the environment is exposed to the algaecide or aquatic herbicide.

Aquatic Pesticides
Aquatic pesticides in this General Permit are limited to algaecides and aquatic herbicides labeled for aquatic use to control aquatic weeds or algae.

Beneficial Uses
Beneficial uses of the waters of the state that may be protected against quality degradation include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves.

Coalition
Specifically refers to a monitoring coalition which is a collaborative monitoring partnership of dischargers to develop a monitoring plan that addresses the monitoring requirements of this General Permit. The Coalition's monitoring plan will be submitted for Coalition members in lieu of individual monitoring plans from each member.

~~**Contained, Non-Flowing Waters**~~
~~For the purposes of this permit, "contained, non-flowing waters" shall mean a water body that has no inflow or outflow immediately preceding and for a period of at least 48 hours following application of the pesticide active ingredients hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetic acid, or sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate.~~

Enclosed Bays
Enclosed Bays means indentations along the coast that enclose an area of oceanic water within distinct headlands or harbor works. Enclosed bays include all bays where the narrowest distance between the headlands or outermost harbor works is less than 75 percent of the greatest dimension of the enclosed portion of the bay. Enclosed bays do not include inland surface waters or ocean waters.

Estuaries
Estuaries means waters, including coastal lagoons, located at the mouths of streams that serve as areas of mixing for fresh and ocean waters. Coastal lagoons and mouths of streams that are temporarily separated from the ocean by sandbars shall be considered estuaries. Estuarine waters shall be considered to extend from a bay or the open ocean to a point upstream where there is no significant mixing of freshwater and seawater. Estuaries do not include inland surface waters or ocean waters.

Half-Life
Half-life is the time required for half of the compound introduced into an ecosystem to be eliminated or disintegrated by natural processes.

Inert Ingredients
Inert ingredients are additional ingredients and are often trade secrets; therefore, they are not always disclosed by the manufacturer.

Mutual Water Company
A mutual water company is defined in the Public Utilities Code, section 2725 as “[a]ny private corporation or association organized for the purpose of delivering water to its stockholders and members at cost, including use of works for conserving, treating, and reclaiming water."

Point Source
Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, or vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.

Priority Pollutants
Priority pollutants are listed within the California Toxics Rule in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, section 131.38(b)(1). Criteria to protect aquatic life and human health are set for priority pollutants in the California Toxics Rule.

Public Entity
Public entity includes the federal government or a state, county, city and county, city, district, public authority, or public agency.

Qualified Biologist
A qualified biologist is a biologist who has the knowledge and experience in the ecosystem where the algaecide or aquatic herbicide is applied so that he or she can adequately evaluate whether the beneficial uses of the receiving waters have been protected and/or restored upon completion of the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project.

Receiving Waters
Receiving waters are waters of the United States anywhere outside of the treatment area at anytime and anywhere inside the treatment area after completion of the treatment event.

Representative Monitoring Location
To be considered "representative," at a minimum, a location must be similar in hydrology, algaecide or aquatic herbicide use, and other factors that affect the residual discharge to the areas being represented in that environmental setting.

Residual Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide
Residual algaecide and aquatic herbicide are those portions of the pesticides that remain in the water after the application and its intended purpose (injury or elimination of targeted pests) have been completed.

Self Monitoring
Sampling and analysis performed by the Discharger or Coalition to determine compliance with the Permit. All laboratory analyses must be conducted by a laboratory certified by the California Department of Public Health.

Treatment Area
The treatment area is the area being treated by the algaecide or aquatic herbicide for algae and aquatic weed control and, therefore, the area being targeted to receive an appropriate rate of application consistent with product label requirements of algaecide or aquatic herbicide. It is the responsibility of the Discharger to define the treatment area for each specific algaecide and aquatic herbicide application.

Waters of the United States
1. All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
2. All interstate waters, including interstate "wetlands;"
3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sand flats, "wetlands," sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
    a. Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;
    b. From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
    c. Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
4. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;
5. Tributaries of waters identified in items1 through 4 of this definition;

6. The territorial sea; and
7. "Wetlands" adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (1) through (6) of this definition. Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 C.F.R. section 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States. This exclusion applies only to manmade bodies of water which neither were originally created in waters of the United States (such as disposal area in wetlands) nor resulted from the impoundment of waters of the United States [See Note 1 of this Section.] Waters of the United States do not include prior converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with U.S. EPA.

Attachment B – Standard Provisions

I. STANDARD PROVISIONS – PERMIT COMPLIANCE (IF APPLICABLE)

A. Duty to Comply

1. The Discharger must comply with all of the conditions of this General Permit. Any noncompliance constitutes a violation of the CWA and the California Water Code and is grounds for enforcement action, for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(a).)
2. The Discharger shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the CWA for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if this General Permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(a)(1).)

B. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a Discharger in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(c).)

C. Duty to Mitigate

The Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this General Permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(d).)

D. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(e).)

E. Property Rights

1. This General Permit does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(g).)
2. The issuance of this General Permit does not authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of state or local law or regulations. (40 C.F.R. §122.5(c).)

F. Inspection and Entry

The Discharger shall allow the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and/or their authorized representatives (including an authorized contractor acting as their representative), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents, as may be required by law, (40 C.F.R. §122.41(i); Water Code, §13383) to:

1. Enter upon the Discharger's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept under the conditions of this General Permit;
2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit;
3. Inspect and photograph, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this General Permit; and
4. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring General Permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the CWA or the Water Code, any substances or parameters at any location.

II. STANDARD PROVISIONS – PERMIT ACTION

A. General

This General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Discharger for modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any General Permit condition. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(f).)

B. Duty to Reapply

If the Discharger wishes to continue an activity regulated by this General Permit after the expiration date of this General Permit, the Discharger must apply for and obtain authorization as required by the new permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(b).)

C. Transfers

This General Permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to the State Water Board. The State Water Board may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the General Permit to change the name of the Discharger and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the CWA and the Water Code. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(3); §122.61.)

D. Continuation of this Permit

If this permit is not reissued or replaced prior to the expiration date, it will be administratively continued in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.6 and remain in full force and effect.

III. STANDARD PROVISIONS – MONITORING

Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(1).)

Monitoring results must be conducted according to test procedures under 40 C.F.R. part 136 unless other test procedures have been specified in this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(4); §122.44(i)(1)(iv).)

IV. STANDARD PROVISIONS – RECORDS

A. Records Retention

The Discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records, copies of all reports required by this General Permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this General Permit, for a period of at least three (3) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the the State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality (Deputy Director) at any time. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(2).)

B. Records of monitoring information shall include:

1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(i).);
2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(ii).);
3. The date(s) analyses were performed (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(iii).);
4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(iv).);
5. The analytical techniques or methods used (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(v).); and
6. The results of such analyses. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(vi).)

C. Claims of confidentiality for the following information will be denied (40 C.F.R. §122.7(b).):

1. The name and address of any permit applicant or Discharger (40 C.F.R. §122.7(b)(1).); and
2. Permit applications and attachments, permits and effluent data. (40 C.F.R. §122.7(b)(2).)

V. STANDARD PROVISIONS – REPORTING

A. Duty to Provide Information

The Discharger shall furnish to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA within a reasonable time, any information which the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this General Permit or to determine compliance with this General Permit. Upon request, the Discharger shall also furnish

to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA copies of records required to be kept by this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(h); Wat. Code, §13267)

B. Signatory and Certification Requirements

1. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, and/or U.S. EPA shall be signed and certified in accordance with Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.2, V.B.3, V.B.4, V.B.5, and V.B.6 below. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(k).)
2. **For a corporation.** By a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means: (i) A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who perfoms similar policy- or decision-making functions for the corporation, or (ii) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided, the manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated facility including having the explicit or implicit duty of making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations; the manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; and where authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
3. **For a partnership or sole proprietorship.** By a general partner or the proprietor, respectively;
4. **For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency:** All permit applications shall be signed by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this provision, a principal executive officer of a federal agency includes: (i) the chief executive officer of the agency, or (ii) a senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency (e.g., Regional Administrators of U.S. EPA). (40 C.F.R. §122.22(a)(3).)
5. All reports required by this General Permit and other information requested by the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA shall be signed by a person described in Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above, or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:
    a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described in Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above (40 C.F.R. §122.22(b)(1).);
    b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity or an individual or a position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a

named individual or any individual occupying a named position.) (40 C.F.R. §122.22(b)(2).); and

c. The written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board and State Water Board. (40 C.F.R. §122.22(b)(3).)

6. If an authorization under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above must be submitted to the Regional Water Board and State Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications, to be signed by an authorized representative. (40 C.F.R. §122.22(c).)

Any person signing a document under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 or V.B.3 above shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations." (40 C.F.R. §122.22(d).)

C. Monitoring Reports

1. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment C) in this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.22(l)(4).)
2. Monitoring results must be reported on a Self Monitoring* Report (SMR) form as agreed to by the Deputy Director and the Discharger.
3. If the Discharger monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this General Permit using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R part 136 or as specified in this General Permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the SMR or a reporting form specified by the State Water Board. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(4)(ii).)
4. Calculations for all limitations, which require averaging of measurements, shall utilize an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified in this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(4)(iii).)

D. Compliance Schedules

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this General Permit, shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(5).)

E. Planned Changes

The Discharger shall give notice to the State and the Regional Water Board as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted activity or discharge. Notice is required under this provision (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(1)) only when the alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants that are subject neither to effluent limitations in this General Permit nor to notification requirements under 40 C.F.R. section 122.42(a)(1).

F. Anticipated Noncompliance

The Discharger shall give advance notice to the State and Regional Water Boards of any planned changes in the permitted discharge or activity that may result in noncompliance with General Permit requirements. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(2).)

G. Other Noncompliance

The Discharger shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.C, V.D, and V.E above at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Standard Provision – Reporting V.F above. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(7).)

H. Other Information

When the Discharger becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the State Water Board, Regional Water Board, or U.S. EPA, the Discharger shall promptly submit such facts or information. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(8).)

VI. STANDARD PROVISIONS – ENFORCEMENT

The State and the Regional Water Boards are authorized to enforce the terms of this General Permit under several provisions of the Water Code, including, but not limited to, sections 13385, 13386, and 13387.

Attachment C – Monitoring and Reporting Program

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ATTACHMENT C – MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Section 122.48 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R. §122.48) requires that all NPDES permits specify monitoring and reporting requirements. California Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 also authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (the State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) to require technical and monitoring reports. This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) establishes monitoring and reporting requirements which implement federal and California State laws and regulations.

This MRP is designed to address the two key questions shown below. It also encourages Dischargers to form monitoring coalitions with others doing similar applications within a given watershed or doing applications of similar environmental settings (flowing water and non-flowing water). The Coalition or Discharger may select sites representing worst case scenarios or high-use areas for each active ingredient in each environmental setting. If the Discharger elects in its Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP) to undertake monitoring and reporting through a Coalition, then the Coalition will prepare and implement an MRP (pursuant to this Attachment C) and act on behalf of the Discharger with respect to monitoring and reporting. Otherwise, the Discharger will prepare and implement an individual MRP.

Question No. 1: Does the residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides discharge cause an exceedance of receiving water limitations?

Question No. 2: Does the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides, including active ingredients, inert ingredients, and degradation byproducts, in any combination cause or contribute to an exceedance of the “no toxics in toxic amount” narrative toxicity objective?

If the Discharger elects in its APAP to undertake monitoring and reporting through a Coalition, the APAP should reference and attach the Coalition’s monitoring plan.

I. GENERAL MONITORING PROVISIONS

A. Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the nature of the monitored discharge. All samples shall be taken at the anticipated monitoring locations specified in the Discharger’s or Coalition’s APAP.

B. All laboratory analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the California Department of Public Health in accordance with California Water Code section 13176. Laboratories that perform sample analyses shall be identified in all monitoring reports. The Discharger shall institute a Quality Assurance-Quality Control Program for any onsite field measurements such as electric conductivity, pH, turbidity, and temperature. A manual containing the steps followed in this program must be kept in the laboratory and shall be available for inspection by the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board staff. The Quality Assurance-Quality Control Program must conform to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) guidelines or to procedures approved by the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board.

C. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants," promulgated by the U.S. EPA in title 40 Code Federal Regulation (40 C.F.R.) 136 or equivalent methods that are commercially and reasonably available and that provide quantification of sampling parameters and constituents sufficient to evaluate compliance with applicable effluent limits and to perform reasonable potential analysis. Equivalent methods must be more sensitive than those specified in 40 C.F.R. 136 if the method is available in the 40 C.F.R. 136, and must be approved for use by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

Any procedures to prevent the contamination of samples as described in the monitoring program in the APAP shall be implemented.

D. Records of monitoring information shall include the following:

1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
2. The individuals who performed the sampling or measurements;
3. The dates analysis were performed;
4. The individuals who performed the analyses;
5. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
6. Results of analyses.

E. All monitoring instruments and devices used to fulfill the prescribed monitoring program shall be properly maintained and calibrated as necessary to ensure their accuracy.

F. Monitoring results, including noncompliance, shall be reported at intervals and in a manner specified in this MRP.

II. MONITORING LOCATIONS AND SAMPLE TYPES

A. Monitoring Locations

Each Discharger or Coalition shall establish monitoring locations specified in the APAP to demonstrate compliance with the receiving water limitations, discharge specifications, and other requirements in this General Permit. The number and location of samples shall be selected to answer the two key questions. A Discharger or Coalition may use representative monitoring locations* to characterize water quality for all waters of the United States within the Discharger's or Coalition's boundaries for each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water). However, the Discharger or Coalition must provide justification for the selection of the representative monitoring locations. To be considered "representative," at a minimum, a location must be similar in hydrology, algaecides and aquatic herbicides use, and other factors that affect the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues to surface waters as a result of applications to the areas being represented in that environmental setting. Each Discharger or Coalition must provide technical justification and identify which areas are to be considered representative. Monitoring

location information shall include a description of the treatment area, GPS coordinates if feasible, and algaecides and aquatic herbicides being applied. The specific monitoring locations initially identified as representative monitoring locations may be changed based on surveillance of the Discharger or Coalition.

B. Sample Types

The following monitoring is required for each sampling:

1. **Background Monitoring.** Background monitoring samples shall be collected upstream at the time of the application event* or in the application area* just prior to (up to 24 hours in advance of) the application event.
2. **Event Monitoring.** Event monitoring samples shall be collected immediately downstream of the treatment area in flowing waters or immediately outside of the treatment area in non-flowing waters, immediately after the application event, but after sufficient time has elapsed such that treated water would have exited the treatment area.
3. **Post-Event Monitoring.** Post-event monitoring samples shall be collected within the treatment area within one week after application or when treatment is complete.

III. RECEIVING WATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS – SURFACE WATER

A. General Monitoring Requirements

The monitoring program described in the APAP shall be designed to answer the two key questions stated above. The monitoring program in the APAP shall describe the tasks and time schedules in which these two key questions will be addressed. Monitoring shall take place at locations that are being planned to be applied or may be applied as described in the Discharger's APAP.

The monitoring program described in the APAP must consider watershed specific attributes and waste constituents, based on the characteristics of applications within the Coalition's or Discharger's area, as well as the receiving water quality conditions. Developing the details of a monitoring design requires clearly defining several inputs to the design and then organizing these in a logical framework that supports effective decision making about indicators, monitoring locations, and monitoring frequency. The logical framework should describe:

1. The basic geographic and hydrographic features of the area, particularly application points and the pathways(s) of residue flows;
2. Algaecides and aquatic herbicides application practices and how they are distributed in space and time;
3. Relevant knowledge about the transport, fates, and effects of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, including best- and worst-case scenarios;

4. Description of the designated beneficial uses in each water body;
5. Relevant knowledge about the action of cumulative and indirect effects;
6. Mechanisms through which algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications could lead to designated use impacts, given the basic features of the area;
7. Known and potential impacts of algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications on water quality, ranked in terms of relative risk, based on factors such as magnitude, frequency and duration;
8. Sufficient number of sampling areas to assess the entire Discharger's or Coalition's area of influence; and
9. A description of sampling methods and a sampling schedule.

In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions throughout the reach bounded by the treatment area. Attention shall be given to the presence or absence of:

1. Floating or suspended matter;
2. Discoloration;
3. Bottom deposits;
4. Aquatic life;
5. Visible films, sheens, or coatings;
6. Fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths; and
7. Potential nuisance conditions.

Notes on receiving water conditions shall be summarized in the monitoring report.

B. Visual, Physical, and Chemical Monitoring Requirements

Monitoring shall take place at locations that are described and scheduled in the Coalition's or Discharger's APAP. Monitoring for all active ingredients must include frequent and routine monitoring on a pre-determined schedule, as summarized in the Table C-1 below:

Table C-1. Monitoring Requirements

Sample Type	Constituent/Parameter	Units	Sample Method	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Sample Type Requirement	Required Analytical Test Method
Visual	1. Monitoring area description (pond, lake, open waterway, channel, etc.) 2. Appearance of waterway (sheen, color, clarity, etc.) 3. Weather conditions (fog, rain, wind, etc.)	Not applicable	Visual Observation	[1]	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	Not applicable
Physical	1. Temperature[2]	ºF	Grab[4]	[5]	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	[6]
	2. pH[3]	Number				
	3. Turbidity[3]	NTU				
	4. Electric Conductivity[3] @ 25°C	µmhos/cm				
Chemical	1. Active Ingredient[7]	µg/L	Grab[4]	[5]	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	[6]
	2. Nonylphenol[8]	µg/L				
	3. Hardness (if copper is monitored)	mg/L				
	4. Dissolved Oxygen[2]	mg/L				

[1] All applications at all sites.

[2] Field testing.

[3] Field or laboratory testing.

[4] Samples shall be collected at three feet below the surface of the water body or at mid water column depth if the depth is less than three feet.

[5] Collect samples from a minimum of six application events for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) per year, except for glyphosate. If there are less than six application events in a year, collect samples during each application event for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water). If the results of monitoring from six consecutive application events show concentrations that are less than the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in an environmental setting, sampling shall be reduced to one application event per year for that active ingredient in that environmental setting. To support a reduction in monitoring frequency, the six sampling events showing concentrations that are less than the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient must be consecutive and can span more than one year or application season. The reduction in monitoring frequency under this provision applies to all listed active ingredients including SIP listed active ingredients If the yearly sampling event shows exceedance of the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in an environmental setting, then sampling shall return to six application events for that active ingredient in each environmental setting. For glyphosate, collect samples from one application event from each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) per year.

[6] Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136.

[7] 2,4-D, acrolein, chlorine, dissolved copper, diquat, endothall, flumioxazin, fluridone, glyphosate, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, and triclopyr.

[8] It is required only when a surfactant is used.

IV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. General Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

1. The Coalition or Discharger shall comply with all Standard Provisions (Attachment B) related to monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping.
2. Upon written direction of the State Water Board or the Regional Water Board, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit information as specified.
3. The Coalition or Discharger shall report to the State Water Board and appropriate Regional Water Board any toxic chemical release data that are reported to the State Emergency Response Commission within 15 days of reporting the data to the Commission pursuant to section 313 of the "Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act" of 1986 (42 U.S.C. §11001 et. seq.).

B. Annual Information Collection

The Coalition or Discharger shall complete and retain all information on the previous reporting year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. When requested by the Deputy Director or Executive Officer of the applicable Regional Water Board, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit the annual information which must include the following:

1. An executive summary discussing compliance or violation of this General Permit and the effectiveness of the APAP to reduce or prevent the discharge of pollutants associated with algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications;
2. A summary of monitoring data, including the identification of water quality improvements or degradation as a result of the algaecide or aquatic pesticide application, if appropriate, and recommendations for improvements to the APAP [including proposed best management practices (BMPs)] and monitoring program based on the monitoring results. All receiving water monitoring data shall be compared to receiving water limitations and receiving water monitoring triggers;
3. Identification of BMPs currently in use and a discussion of their effectiveness in meeting the requirements in this General Permit;
4. A discussion of BMP modifications addressing violations of this General Permit;
5. A map showing the location of each treatment area;
6. Types and amounts of algaecides and aquatic herbicides used at each application event;*
7. Information on surface area and/or volume of treatment areas and any other information used to calculate dosage, concentration, and quantity of each algaecide and aquatic herbicide used;
8. Sampling results shall indicate the name of the sampling agency or organization, detailed sampling location information (including latitude and longitude or township/range/section if available), detailed map or description of each sampling area (address, cross roads, etc.), collection date, name of constituent/parameter

and its concentration detected, minimum levels, method detection limits for each constituent analysis, name or description of water body sampled, and a comparison with applicable water quality standards, description of analytical QA/quality control plan. Sampling results shall be tabulated so that they are readily discernible; and

9. Summary of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application log.

C. Annual Report

The Coalition or Discharger shall submit to the Deputy Director and the appropriate Regional Water Board Executive Officer an annual report consisting of a summary of the past year's activities, and certify compliance with all requirements of this General Permit. If there is no discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, their residues, or their degradation byproducts, the Coalition or Discharger shall provide the Deputy Director and the appropriate Regional Water Board Executive Officer a certification that algaecide and aquatic herbicide application activities did not result in a discharge to any water body. The annual report shall contain the following information:

1. An executive summary discussing compliance or violation of this General Permit and the effectiveness of the APAP; and
2. A summary of monitoring data, including the identification of water quality improvements or degradation as a result of the algaecide or aquatic pesticide application,
3. Dischargers shall submit the annual report according to the following schedule:

Table C-2. Reporting Schedule

Reporting Frequency	Reporting Period	Annual Report Due
Annual	January 1 through December 31	March 1

D. Electronic Reporting

At any time during the term of this General Permit, the State Water Board or the appropriate Regional Water Board may notify the Coalition or Discharger of the requirement to submit electronically Self Monitoring Reports (SMRs) using the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Program (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/index.html). Until such notification is given, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit hardcopy SMRs. The CIWQS website will provide additional directions for SMR submittal in the event there will be service interruption for electronic submittal.

The Coalition or Discharger shall report the results for all monitoring specified in this MRP in the SMR. The Coalition or Discharger shall submit annual SMRs including the results of all required monitoring using U.S. EPA-approved test methods or other test methods specified in this General Permit. If the Coalition or Discharger monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this General Permit, the results of this

monitoring shall be included in the calculations and reporting of the data submitted in the SMR.

E. Reporting Protocols

The Coalition or Discharger shall report with each sample result the applicable reported Minimum Level (ML) and the current Minimum Detection Limit, as determined by the procedure in 40 C.F.R. part 136.

The Coalition or Discharger shall report the results of analytical determinations for the presence of chemical constituents in a sample using the following reporting protocols:

1. Sample results greater than or equal to the reported ML shall be reported as measured by the laboratory (i.e., the measured chemical concentration in the sample).
2. Sample results less than the Report Limit, but greater than or equal to the laboratory's MDL, shall be reported as "Detected, but Not Quantified," or DNQ. The estimated chemical concentration of the sample shall also be reported.

   For the purposes of data collection, the laboratory shall write the estimated chemical concentration next to DNQ as well as the words "Estimated Concentration" (may be shortened to "Est. Conc."). The laboratory may, if such information is available, include numerical estimates of the data quality for the reported result. Numerical estimates of data quality may be percent accuracy (plus a percentage of the reported value), numerical ranges (low to high), or any other means considered appropriate by the laboratory.
3. Sample results less than the laboratory's MDL shall be reported as "<" followed by the MDL.
4. The Coalition or Discharger shall instruct laboratories to establish calibration standards so that the ML value (or its equivalent if there is differential treatment of samples relative to calibration standards) is the lowest calibration standard. At no time is the Coalition or Discharger to use analytical data derived from extrapolation beyond the lowest point of the calibration curve.
5. Multiple Sample Data: If two or more sample results are available, the Coalition or Discharger shall compute the arithmetic mean unless the data set contains one or more reported determinations of DNQ or "Not Detected" (ND). In those cases, the Coalition or Discharger shall compute the median in place of the arithmetic mean in accordance with the following procedure:

   a. The data set shall be ranked from low to high, ranking the reported ND determinations lowest, DNQ determinations next, followed by quantified values (if any). The order of the individual ND or DNQ determinations is unimportant.

   b. The median value of the data set shall be determined. If the data set has an odd number of data points, then the median is the middle value. If the data

set has an even number of data points, then the median is the average of the two values around the middle unless one or both of the points are ND or DNQ, in which case the median value shall be the lower of the two data points where DNQ is lower than a value and ND is lower than DNQ.

6. The annual report shall comply with the following requirements:

   a. The Coalition or Discharger shall arrange all reported data in a tabular format. The data shall be summarized to clearly illustrate whether the algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications are conducted in compliance with effluent and receiving water limitations. The Coalition or Discharger is not required to duplicate the submittal of data that are entered in a tabular format within CIWQS. When electronic submittal of data is required and CIWQS does not provide for entry into a tabular format within the system, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit electronically the data in a tabular format as an attachment.

   b. The Coalition or Discharger shall attach a cover letter to the annual report that clearly identifies violations of the permit; discusses corrective actions taken or planned; and provides a time schedule for corrective actions. Identified violations must include a description of the requirement that was violated and a description of the violation.

   c. The annual report must be submitted to the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board, signed and certified as required by the Standard Provisions (Attachment B).

F. Other Reporting Requirements

1. Twenty-Four Hour Report

The Coalition or Discharger shall report to the State Water Board and appropriate Regional Water Board any noncompliance, including any unexpected or unintended effect of an algaecide or aquatic herbicide use that may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the Coalition or Discharger becomes aware of the circumstances and must include the following information:

a. The caller's name and telephone number;

b. Applicator name and mailing address;

c. Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) number;

d. The name and telephone number of a contact person;

e. How and when the Coalition or Discharger become aware of the noncompliance;

f. Description of the location of the noncompliance;

g. Description of the noncompliance identified and the U.S. EPA pesticide registration number for each product the Discharger applied in the area of the noncompliance; and

h. Description of any steps that the Coalition or Discharger has taken or will take to correct, repair, remedy, cleanup, or otherwise address any adverse effects.

If the Coalition or Discharger is unable to notify the State and the appropriate Regional Water Board within 24 hours, the Coalition or Discharger must do so as soon as possible and also provide the rationale for why the Discharger was unable to provide such notification within 24 hours.

2. **Five-Day Written Report**

The Coalition or Discharger shall also provide a written submission within five (5) days of the time the Discharger becomes aware of the noncompliance. The written submission shall contain the following information:

a. Date and time the Coalition or Discharger contacted the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board notifying of the noncompliance and any instructions received from the State and/or Regional Water Board; information required to be provided in Section D.1 (24-Hour Reporting);

b. A description of the noncompliance and its cause, including exact date and time and species affected, estimated number of individual and approximate size of dead or distressed organisms (other than the pests to be eliminated);

c. Location of incident, including the names of any waters affected and appearance of those waters (sheen, color, clarity, etc);

d. Magnitude and scope of the affected area (e.g. aquatic square area or total stream distance affected);

e. Algaecide and aquatic herbicide application rate, intended use site (e.g., banks, above, or direct to water), method of application, and name of algaecide and herbicide product, description of algaecide and herbicide ingredients, and U.S. EPA registration number;

f. Description of the habitat and the circumstances under which the noncompliance activity occurred (including any available ambient water data for aquatic algaecides and aquatic herbicides applied);

g. Laboratory tests performed, if any, and timing of tests. Provide a summary of the test results within five days after they become available;

h. If applicable, explain why the Coalition or Discharger believes the noncompliance could not have been caused by exposure to the algaecides or aquatic herbicides from the Coalition's or Discharger's application; and

i. Actions to be taken to prevent recurrence of adverse incidents.

The State Water Board staff or Regional Water Board staff may waive the above-required written report under this provision on a case-by-case basis if an oral report has been received within 24 hours.

Attachment D – Fact Sheet

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Attachment D – Fact Sheet

As described in Section III, Findings, of this General Permit, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) incorporates this Fact Sheet as findings of the State Water Board that support the issuance of this General Permit. This Fact Sheet includes the legal requirements and technical rationale that serve as the basis for the requirements of this General Permit.

This General Permit has been prepared under a standardized format to accommodate a broad range of discharge requirements for Dischargers in California.

I. PERMIT INFORMATION

A. Background

1. The Regulatory Background

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act or CWA) was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source is effectively prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

On September 22, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) granted the State of California, through the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), the authority to issue general NPDES permits pursuant to title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.) 122 and 123.

Section 122.28 of 40 C.F.R. provides for issuance of general permits to regulate a category of point sources if the sources involve the same or substantially similar types of operations; discharge the same type of waste; require the same type of effluent limitations or operating conditions; require similar monitoring; and are more appropriately regulated under a general permit rather than individual permits.

On March 12, 2001, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that discharges of pollutants from the use of aquatic pesticides in waters of the United States require coverage under an NPDES permit. (*Headwaters, Inc. v. Talent Irrigation District).*[3] The *Talent* decision was issued just prior to the major season for applying aquatic pesticides.

Because of the serious public health, safety, and economic implications of delaying pesticide applications, in 2001 the State Water Board adopted Water

[3] 243 F.3d 526 (9th Cir., 2001).

Quality Order (Order) No. 2001-12-DWQ, Statewide General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Aquatic Pesticides to Waters of the United States on an emergency basis to provide immediate NPDES permit coverage for broad categories of aquatic pesticide use in California.

Order No. 2001-12-DWQ imposed requirements on any discharge of aquatic pesticides by public entities to waters of the United States in accordance with the Policy which establishes procedures for implementing water quality standards for priority pollutants* in NPDES permits.

Section 5.3 of the State Water Board Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (Policy) allows for short-term or seasonal exceptions from its requirements for resource or pest management conducted by public entities or mutual water companies. In order to qualify for an exception from meeting priority pollutant standards, a public entity must fulfill the requirements listed in section 5.3 and the State Water Board must decide to grant the exception. Among other requirements, entities seeking an exception to complying with water quality standards for priority pollutants must submit documents in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).[4] Because of the emergency adoption of Order No. 2001-12-DWQ, the State Water Board invoked an exemption to the requirements of section 5.3 of the Policy and issued the permit incorporating a categorical exception to water quality standards for priority pollutants.

Order No. 2001-12-DWQ required that Dischargers develop a best management practices (BMPs) plan that minimizes adverse impacts to receiving waters and a monitoring and reporting plan that is representative of each type of aquatic pesticide application.

In August 2001, Waterkeepers Northern California (Waterkeepers) filed a lawsuit against the State Water Board challenging several aspects of Order No. 2001-12-DWQ. Major aspects of the challenge included the emergency adoption of the Order without compliance with CEQA and other exception requirements of the Policy; failure to address cumulative impacts; and failure to comply with the California Toxics Rule (CTR).[5]

In a settlement of the Waterkeepers' lawsuit, the State Water Board agreed to fund a comprehensive aquatic pesticide monitoring program that would assess receiving water toxicity caused by aquatic pesticides and alternatives for pesticide use. The State Water Board contracted with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) to conduct the program. SFEI published the final report on February 5, 2004.

[4] Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et. seq.
[5] 40 C.F.R. Section 131.38.

In November 2002, the Ninth Circuit issued another opinion concerning the need for an NPDES permit for pesticide application. (*League of Wilderness Defenders v. Forsgren*.[6]) In this case, the court held that the USDA Forest Service must obtain an NPDES permit before it sprays insecticides* from an aircraft directly into or over rivers as part of silviculture activities. The court found that the insecticides are pollutants under the CWA. The court also defined the exemption for silvicultural pest control from the definition of "point source" in U.S. EPA's regulations to be limited to pest control activities from which there is natural runoff.

Also in 2002, the Second Circuit issued an unpublished decision regarding the need for an NPDES permit for application of pesticides for mosquito control in federal wetland areas. (*Altman v. Town of Amherst*.) The lower court had dismissed a citizens' suit, holding that pesticides, when used for their intended purpose, do not constitute a "pollutant" for purposes of the CWA, and are more appropriately regulated under Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The appeals court vacated the trial court's decision and remanded the matter. In its unpublished decision, the Second Circuit expressed concern that: "[u]ntil the EPA articulates a clear interpretation of current law - among other things, whether properly used pesticides released into or over waters of the United States can trigger the requirements for NPDES permits - the question of whether properly used pesticides can become pollutants that violate the [Clean Water Act] will remain open."

Order No. 2001-12-DWQ expired on January 31, 2004. In 2004, it was replaced by two general permits: a vector control permit for larvicides (Order No. 2004-0008-DWQ) and a weed control permit (Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ). The State Water Board determined that adoption of these two permits was consistent with the Ninth Circuit decisions.

In 2005, the Ninth Circuit held that a pesticide that is applied consistent with FIFRA is not a "chemical waste" (*Fairhurst v. Hagener),*[7] but also stated that it would not change its decision in *Headwaters.* The court stated that whether an NPDES permit was required depends on whether there was any "residue or unintended effect" from application of the pesticide. In *Fairhurst*, the court found neither residue nor unintended effect was present. Therefore, the pesticide application at issue did not require an NPDES permit.

U.S. EPA's Final Rule: On November 20, 2006, U.S. EPA adopted a final regulation providing that NPDES permits are not required for pesticide applications as long as the Discharger follows FIFRA label instructions. According to the regulation, pesticides applied under the following two circumstances are not pollutants and, therefore, are not subject to NPDES permitting requirements:

[6] 309 F.3d 1181 (9th Cir., 2002).
[7] 422 F.3d 1146 (9th Cir., 2005).

a. The application of pesticides directly to waters of the United States in order to control pests. Examples of such applications include applications to control mosquito larvae, aquatic weeds, or other pests that are present in waters of the United States; and

b. The application of pesticides to control pests that are present over waters of the United States, including near such waters, where a portion of the pesticides will unavoidably be deposited to waters of the United States in order to target the pests effectively; for example, when insecticides are aerially applied to a forest canopy where waters of the United States may be present below the canopy or when pesticides are applied over or near water for control of adult mosquitoes or other pests.

Lawsuits Against U.S. EPA's Final Rule: After U.S. EPA's new regulation was adopted in 2006, lawsuits were filed by both the pesticide industry and environmental groups in 11 of the 13 Circuits, including the Ninth Circuit Court, challenging U.S. EPA's Final Rule.

The National Cotton Council of America v. U.S. EPA: [8] The petitions for review were consolidated in the Sixth Circuit Court by an order of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.

On January 11, 2009, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals determined that U.S. EPA's Final Rule is not a reasonable interpretation of the CWA and vacated the Final Rule. U.S. EPA did not request reconsideration of the decision, but did file a motion for a two-year stay of the effect of the decision in order to provide agencies time to develop, propose, and issue NPDES general permits for pesticide applications covered by the ruling. On June 8, 2009, the Sixth Circuit granted the motion, such that the U.S. EPA exemption was to remain in place until April 9, 2011. Subsequently, U.S. EPA was granted an extension of the stay, which allowed the exemption to continue until October 31, 2011.

2. **Related Pesticide Regulation Information**

Pesticide formulations may include "active ingredients" and "inert ingredients." Adjuvants or surfactants may be added to the ingredients in the application equipment that is used in the delivery of the aquatic pesticide.

As part of the registration process of pesticides for use in California, U.S. EPA and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) evaluate data submitted by registrants to ensure that a product used according to label instructions will cause no harm or adverse impact on non-target organisms that cannot be reduced or mitigated with protective measures or use restrictions. Registrants are required to submit data on the effects of pesticides on target pests (efficacy) as well as non-target effects. Data on non-target effects include plant effects (phytotoxicity), fish and wildlife hazards (ecotoxicity), impacts on

[8] 553 F.3d 927 (6th Cir., 2009).

endangered species, effects on the environment, environmental fate, degradation byproducts, leachability, and persistence. Requirements that are specific to use in California are included in many pesticide labels that are approved by U.S. EPA. Use must be reported to the County Agricultural Commissioner where required by law or by agreement with DPR.

The CWA, at section 301(a), broadly prohibits the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States, except in compliance with an NPDES permit. Since FIFRA is not necessarily as protective of water quality as the CWA, pesticides discharged into surface waters may constitute pollutants within the meaning of the CWA even if the discharge is in compliance with the registration requirements of FIFRA, thus, requiring coverage under a valid NPDES permit.

DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners regulate the sale and use of pesticides in California. Pesticide applications subject to this General Permit must be consistent with permits issued by County Agricultural Commissioners and the pesticide label instructions approved by U.S. EPA under FIFRA. According to federal law, pesticide label language is under the sole jurisdiction of U.S. EPA. Label language and any changes thereto must be approved by U.S. EPA before the product can be sold in this country. DPR cannot require manufacturers to make changes on labels; however, DPR can refuse to register products unless manufacturers address unmitigated hazards by amending the pesticide label.

State regulations require that the County Agricultural Commissioners determine if a substantial adverse environmental impact will result from the proposed use of a restricted material. If the County Agricultural Commissioner determines that this is likely, the commissioner may deny the restricted pesticide use permit or may issue it under the condition that site-specific use practices be followed (beyond the label and applicable regulations) to mitigate potentially adverse effects. DPR conducts scientific evaluations of potential health and environmental impacts and provides commissioners with information in the form of suggested permit conditions. DPR's suggested permit conditions reflect minimum measures necessary to protect people and the environment. County Agricultural Commissioners use this information and its evaluation of local conditions to set site-specific limits in permits.

B. General Criteria

1. This General Permit serves as a general NPDES Permit for the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides to surface waters as a result of algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications for algae and aquatic weed controls.
2. Dischargers who submit a complete application under this General Permit are not required to submit an individual permit application. The State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality (Deputy Director) may request additional information or determine that a Discharger is not eligible for coverage under this General Permit and would be better regulated under an individual permit or other general NPDES permit adopted by the appropriate Regional

Water Board. If the discharge becomes covered by an individual or another general permit, the applicability of this General Permit to the specified discharge will be immediately terminated on the effective date of the individual permit or coverage under the other general permit.

II. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Permit Application

To obtain authorization under this General Permit, Dischargers must submit to the State Water Board a complete application at least 90 days prior to their first application of the season. This is to allow posting of the Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP) for a 30-day comment period, staff to review APAP and respond to comments, and the Deputy Director to issue the Notice of Applicability (NOA). Following are the application information requirements:

1. A Notice of Intent (NOI shown as Attachment E) signed in accordance with the signatory requirements of the Standard Provisions in Attachment B;
2. An application fee. A fee is required only for new Dischargers. Dischargers that are enrolled under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ and are applying for coverage under this Permit will be billed during the regular billing cycle; and
3. An APAP.

State Water Board staff will post the APAP on the State Water Board's website for 30 days for public review. In the meantime, the State and Regional Water Board staff will review the application package for completeness and applicability to this General Permit. After the application has been deemed complete, the Deputy Director will issue an NOA. The NOA will specify the permitted active ingredients of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that may be used, and any Regional Water Board specific conditions and requirements not stated in this General Permit. Any such region-specific conditions and requirements shall be enforceable. The Discharger is authorized to discharge starting on the date of the NOA. If comments are received, staff will immediately work to resolve them in order to issue an NOA within 90 days of receipt of the application.

This General Permit specifices an effective date of December 1, 2013. The effective date is delayed because, with the impending start of the 2013 application season, Dischargers may be unable to comply with the requirement to submit their applications 90 days prior to their first pesticide application.The delay will allow enrollees under Water Quality Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ to have continued permit coverage throughout the 2013 application season while preparing their new application for coverage under this General Permit; new enrollees to prepare and submit their applications as well; and Water Boards' staff to process the applications and issue NOAs.

Alternatively, the Deputy Director may issue a Notice of Exclusion, which either terminates permit coverage or requires submittal of an application for an individual permit or alternative general permit.

B. Fee

The annual fee for enrollment under this General Permit, shall be based on Category 3 in section 2200(b)(9) of title 23, California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs.). This category is appropriate because algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications incorporate BMPs to control potential impacts to beneficial uses, and this General Permit prohibits pollutant discharge associated with algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications from causing exceedance of CTR criteria or water quality objectives. Information concerning the applicable fees can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/docs/fy1112fee_schdl_npdes_prmt.pdf

A Discharger proposing to apply algaecides and aquatic herbicides in multiple Water Board regions shall submit one NOI, one APAP, and one filing fee. The Discharger shall indicate in the NOI all the Water Board regions where applications are planned. The Discharger shall address all required elements of the APAP for all areas in the state where discharges are proposed.

C. Public Notification

The State Water Board has notified interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements in this General Permit and provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations.

III. DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

This General Permit covers the point source discharge to waters of the United States of pesticide residues resulting from applications using products containing 2,4-D, acrolein, calcium hypochlorite, copper, diquat, endothall, flumioxazin, fluridone, glyphosate, hydrogen peroxide, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, peroxyacetic acid, sodium hypochlorite, and triclopyr-based algaecides and aquatic herbicides, and adjuvants containing ingredients represented by the surrogate nonylphenol. This General Permit covers only discharges of algaecides, aquatic herbicides, and adjuvants that are currently registered for use in California, or that become registered for use and contain the above-listed active ingredients and ingredients represented by the surrogate of nonylphenol.

A. Existing Discharge Description

As of January 11, 2013, there were 153 active enrollees under Water Quality Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Discharge of Aquatic Pesticides for Aquatic Weed Control in Waters of the United States, General Permit No. CAG990005 (Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ). Most of the enrollees are local public agencies such as cities and irrigation,

flood control, or reclamation districts. The other enrollees include six state of California agencies: the Departments of Boating and Waterways, Fish and Wildlife, Food and Agriculture, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Water Resources; a federal agency, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service; and a few private entities such as home owner associations and mobile home park owners.

The State Water Board granted exceptions to public agencies and mutual water companies that met the criteria stated in section 5.3 of the Policy for short-term or seasonal exceptions from meeting the receiving water limitations for priority pollutants of acrolein and copper.

Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ permits the discharge of aquatic pesticides with the following active ingredients: 2,4-D, acrolein, copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone, glyphosate, and triclopyr. The State Water Board reopened Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ after its adoption to add two more active ingredients: (1) imazapyr, a non-selective herbicide, for control of cordgrass and broadleaf weeds and other emergent aquatic species; and (2) sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate as an alternative to copper for algae control.*

B. Annual Report Review

State Water Board staff reviewed annual reports from 2004 through 2008[9] submitted under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ. The data are summarized in Table D-1 below. As shown in Table D-1, all constituent concentrations from post-event application samples were below receiving water limitations except for the following: three exceedances each for acrolein and glyphosate and 82 exceedances for copper out of 288 monitoring events. For glyphosate, it is likely that the three exceedances were not the result of aquatic pesticide applications because the pre-application samples also showed exceedances and the remaining 151 sampling events showed no exceedance. For copper, 43 of the 82 exceedances were from public agencies or mutual water companies that were excepted from meeting priority pollutant limitations during the exception period. Thus, staff did not consider these exceedances as violations of the receiving water limitations. However, 39 of the exceedances were from entities that did not have a Policy exception. Therefore, staff considered these exceedances as true violations of the receiving water limitations.

Table D-1. Monitoring Data Summary, 2004-2008, Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ

Pollutant	Number of Samples	Number of Exceedance
2,4-D	3	0
Acrolein	213	3

[9] The data are submitted to the Regional Water Boards per Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ. When State Water Board staff started collecting data from the Regional Water Boards, the data available covered only this period.

Pollutant	Number of Samples	Number of Exceedance
Copper	288	85
Diquat	17	0
Endothall	6	0
Fluridone	12	0
Glyphosate	154	3
Nonylphenol	53	0

Under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, the most commonly used aquatic pesticide products contained copper, acrolein, and glyphosate in descending order.

C. Receiving Water Description

The annual reports showed that most algae and aquatic weed control applications were performed in fresh inland surface waters such as lakes, ponds, flood control and drainage channels, or canals. Some applications were performed in coastal waters, marina lagoons, and slough with brackish water.

IV. APPLICABLE PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

The requirements contained in this General Permit are based on the applicable plans, policies, and regulations identified below.

A. Legal Authorities

This General Permit is issued pursuant to section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and implementing regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and chapter 5.5, division 7 of the California Water Code, commencing with section 13370. It shall serve as an NPDES permit for point source discharges of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides to surface waters. This General Permit also serves as WDRs pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, division 7 of the California Water Code (commencing with §13260).

This General Permit shall serve as a General NPDES permit for point source discharges of residues from algaecides and aquatic herbicide applications for algae and aquatic weed control. This General Permit also serves as general Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, and division 7 of the California Water Code (commencing with §13260).

B. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Pursuant to California Water Code section 13389, State and Regional Water Boards are exempt from the requirement to comply with Chapter 3, Division 13 of the Public Resources Code when adopting NPDES permits.

C. State and Federal Regulations, Policies, and Plans

1. Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans)

The Regional Water Boards have adopted Basin Plans that designate beneficial uses, establish water quality objectives, and contain implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the plans. In addition, the Basin Plans implement State Water Board Resolution No. 88-63, which established state policy that all waters, with certain exceptions, should be considered suitable or potentially suitable for municipal or domestic supply. The Basin Plans identify typical beneficial uses as follows: municipal and domestic supply, agricultural irrigation, stock watering, process supply, service supply, hydropower supply, water contact recreation, canoeing and rafting recreation, other non-contact water recreation,* warm freshwater aquatic habitat, cold freshwater habitat,* warm fish migration habitat, cold fish migration habitat, warm and cold spawning habitat, wildlife habitat, navigation, rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat, groundwater recharge,* and freshwater replenishment.

Requirements of this General Permit implement provisions contained in the applicable Basin Plans.

2. National Toxics Rule (NTR) and California Toxics Rule (CTR)

U.S. EPA adopted the NTR on December 22, 1992, and later amended it on May 4, 1995 and November 9, 1999. About 40 criteria in the NTR applied in California. On May 18, 2000, U.S. EPA adopted the CTR. The CTR promulgated new toxics criteria for California and, in addition, incorporated the previously adopted NTR criteria that were applicable in the state. The CTR was amended on February 13, 2001. These rules contain water quality criteria for priority pollutants.

3. State Implementation Policy (Policy)

On March 2, 2000, the State Water Board adopted the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (Policy). The Policy became effective on April 28, 2000 with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated for California by U.S. EPA through the NTR and to the priority pollutant objectives established by the Regional Water Board in the Basin Plans. The Policy became effective on May 18, 2000 with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated by U.S. EPA through the CTR. The State Water Board adopted amendments to the Policy on February 24, 2005 that became effective on July 13, 2005. The Policy establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria and objectives and provisions for chronic toxicity control. Requirements of this General Permit implement the Policy.

Policy Exception

The Policy provides categorical exceptions allowing short-term or seasonal exceptions from meeting the priority pollutant criteria/objectives if it is determined to be necessary to implement control measures for resource or pest management conducted by public entities or mutual water companies to fulfill statutory requirements. The Policy specifically refers to vector or weed control, pest eradication, or fishery management as the basis for categorical exceptions. The exceptions are only granted to public entities or mutual water companies that have adequately provided the following information as required by the Policy:

a. A detailed description of the proposed action which includes the proposed method of completing the action;

c. A time schedule;

d. A discharge and receiving water monitoring plan that specifies monitoring prior to application events,* during application events, and after completion with the appropriate quality control procedures;

e. CEQA documentation including notifying potentially affected public and government agencies; and

f. Any necessary contingency plans.

The public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G have met the above requirements before the issuance or during the term of the Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ.

The final Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declarations (ND/MND) prepared by the public entities or mutual water companies have determined that the water quality impacts identified in the environmental assessments of the ND/MND from algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications are less than significant, and would not have a significant effect on the environment. The boards of each public entity and mutual water company*, as the lead agencies under CEQA, approved the final ND/MND. Therefore, each public entity or mutual water company is not required to meet priority pollutant criteria during the exception period.

During the issuance of the Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, as required in section 15096 of the CEQA Guidelines, the State Water Board, as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, considered the ND/MND approved by the board of each public entity or mutual water company. The State Water Board found that the projects will have less than significant water quality impact if the Dischargers meet the requirements in this General Permit. Accordingly, the Policy 5.3 exception granted previously will continue to be valid under this Order.

Any Discharger not listed in Attachment G is required to meet all applicable priority pollutant criteria for receiving waters.

4. **Antidegradation Policy**

Section 131.12 of 40 C.F.R. requires that the state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State

Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing water quality be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Basin Plans implement, and incorporate by reference, both the state and federal antidegradation policies.

The permitted discharge must be consistent with the antidegradation provision of 40 C.F.R. section 131.12 and Resolution No. 68-16. The conditions of this General Permit require residual algaecide and aquatic herbicide discharges to meet applicable water quality objectives. Specifically, the General Permit sets receiving water limitations for 2,4-D, acrolein, chlorine, copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone glyphosate, and nonylphenol. It also sets receiving water monitoring triggers for imazapyr and triclopyr triethylamine (TEA).

The BMPs and other controls required pursuant to the General Permit constitute Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT).

The General Permit requirements are protective of the broad range of beneficial uses set forth in basin plans throughout the state, constituting best control available consistent with the purposes of the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application in order to ensure that pollution or nuisance will not occur. The nature of pesticides is to be toxic in order to protect beneficial uses such as human health or long-term viability of aquatic life. For example, blue-green algae are bacteria that live in both fresh and marine waters. In California, certain forms of blue-green algae have been a particular problem in the Klamath River watershed and on the Central Coast. Blooms of these bacteria can poison livestock, wildlife, and humans; they can also damage drinking water sources. The use of an algaecide is one of the effective ways to control the harmful blooms of blue-green algae. Although algaecide application will temporarily degrade the water quality and result in short-term toxicity in the receiving water, it prevents the toxicities in the entire water body for a long period of time. While surface waters may be temporarily degraded; water quality standards and objectives will not be exceeded after project completion.

Another example of benefits of pesticide application is the control of aquatic weeds in flood control channels. Aquatic herbicides used to control emerging aquatic weeds in a flood control channel will effectively prevent full growth and bloom of aquatic weeds that may block the channel and cause flooding in the surrounding communities. Although the water quality is temporarily degraded while the herbicide is taking its effect in eliminating the weeds, the water quality will not be exceeded after the project is completed. In addition, the receiving water limitations and other requirements of this General Permit will ensure maintenance of the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state.

Given the nature of a General Permit and the broad range of beneficial uses to be protected across the state, data analysis of specific water bodies is infeasible.

While surface waters may be temporarily degraded, water quality standards and objectives will not be exceeded. The nature of pesticides is to be toxic in order to protect human health and water resources. However, compliance with receiving water limitations is required. Therefore, this General Permit is consistent with state and federal antidegradation policies.

5. **Endangered Species Act**

This General Permit does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a threatened or endangered species or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code §2050 et. seq) or the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.A. §1531 et. seq). This General Permit requires compliance with effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and other requirements to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state. The Discharger is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable Endangered Species Act.

6. **Impaired Water Bodies on CWA 303(d) List**

This General Permit does not authorize the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their degradation byproducts to waters of the United States that are impaired by the same active ingredients and their degradation byproducts. The links to California's impaired waters bodies are provided at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtm.

7. **Other Plans, Policies, and Regulations**

The State Water Board adopted the *Water Quality Control Policy for the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California*. The requirements within this General Permit are consistent with the policy.

8. **Delegation to Executive Director**

This General Permit covers the application of pesticides that are based on active ingredients that are currently registered by DPR for the control of algae and aquatic weeds. When DPR registers a new active ingredient for algae and aquatic weed control, this General Permit needs to be reopened to add the new active ingredient to the permit before Dischargers may begin using the active ingredient. In addition, when DPR registers a new active ingredient that is also a priority pollutant and has been added to this General Permit, this General Permit may also be reopened to allow Dischargers to obtain an exception from meeting receiving water limitations for the priority pollutant in accordance with SIP section 5.3. It is very resource intensive to have the State Water Board amend this General Permit on a frequent basis. Thus, this General Permit contains a delegation from the State Water Board to the Executive Director to amend this General Permit for these two purposes. In cases of significant public controversy, the Executive Director may determine that any permit amendment otherwise subject to this section will be considered by the State Water Board.

V. RATIONALE FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

Effluent limitations and toxic and pretreatment effluent standards established pursuant to sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 304 (Information and Guidelines), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the CWA and amendments thereto are applicable to the discharge.

The control of pollutants discharged is established through effluent limitations and other requirements in NPDES permits. There are two principal bases for effluent limitations: (1) 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(a) requires that permits include applicable technology-based limitations and standards; and (2) 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d) requires that permits include water quality-based effluent limitations to attain and maintain applicable numeric and narrative water quality criteria to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water where numeric water quality objectives have not been established.

The CWA mandates the implementation of effluent limitations that are as stringent as necessary to meet water quality standards established pursuant to state or federal law (33 U.S.C., §1311(b)(1)(C); 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)). NPDES permits must incorporate discharge limits necessary to ensure that water quality standards are met. This requirement applies to narrative criteria as well as to numeric criteria specifying maximum amounts of particular pollutants. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d)(1)(i), NPDES permits must contain limits that control all pollutants that "*are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any state water quality standard, including state narrative criteria for water quality*." Section 122.44(d)(1)(vi) of 40 C.F.R. further provides that "[w]*here a state has not established a water quality criterion for a specific chemical pollutant that is present in an effluent at a concentration that causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an excursion above a narrative criterion within an applicable State water quality standard, the permitting authority must establish effluent limits.*"

The CWA requires point source dischargers to control the amount of conventional, non-conventional, and toxic pollutants that are discharged into the waters of the United States. The control of pollutants discharged is established through effluent limitations and other requirements in NPDES permits. There are two principal bases for effluent limitations: 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(a) requires that permits include applicable technology-based limitations and standards; and section 122.44(d) requires that permits include water quality-based effluent limitations to attain and maintain applicable numeric and narrative water quality criteria to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water where numeric water quality objectives have not been established.

With respect to narrative objectives, the State Water Board must establish effluent limitations using one or more of three specified sources: (1) U.S. EPA's published water quality criteria; (2) a proposed state criterion (i.e., water quality objective) or an explicit state policy interpreting its narrative water quality criteria; or (3) an indicator parameter (i.e., 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)(vi)(A), (B) or (C)). Basin Plans contain a narrative objective requiring that: "*All waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations*

that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life." Basin Plans require the application of the most stringent objective necessary to ensure that surface water and groundwater do not contain chemical constituents, discoloration, toxic substances, radionuclides, or taste and odor producing substances that adversely affect beneficial uses. Basin Plans state that material and relevant information, including numeric criteria, and recommendations from other agencies and scientific literature will be utilized in evaluating compliance with the narrative toxicity objective. Basin Plans also limit chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect surface water beneficial uses. Basin Plans further state that, to protect all beneficial uses, the Regional Water Board may apply limits more stringent than MCLs.

A. Discharge Prohibitions

1. The discharge of residual algaecides, residual aquatic herbicides, and their degradation byproducts in a manner different from that described in this General Permit is prohibited.

   This prohibition is based on 40 C.F.R. 122.21(a), "Duty to Apply," and California Water Code section 13260, which requires filing a Report of Waste Discharge before discharges can occur. Discharges not described in the NOI, and subsequently not discharged in the manner permitted by this General Permit, are prohibited.

2. The discharge of residual algaecides, residual aquatic herbicides, and their degradation byproducts shall not create a nuisance as defined in section 13050 of the California Water Code.

   This prohibition is based on California Water Code section 13050 for water quality control for achieving water quality objectives.

3. The discharge shall not cause, have a reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above any applicable standard or criterion promulgated by U.S. EPA pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, or water quality objective adopted by the State or Regional Water Boards.

   This prohibition is based on CWA section 301 and California Water Code.

4. All pesticides are prohibited from the waters of the Lahontan Region (Region 6). The use of this permit is invalid in the Lahontan Region unless the discharger has requested a prohibition exemption from the Lahontan Water Board and the Lahontan Water Board has granted an exemption for the use of algaecides or aquatic herbicides.

   This prohibition is based on the Lahontan Water Board's region-wide waste discharge prohibition for pesticides in water with exemption criteria to allow certain uses of aquatic pesticides.

B. Effluent Limitations

1. Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

The intent of technology-based effluent limitations in NPDES permits is to require a minimum level of treatment of pollutants based on available treatment technologies while allowing the Discharger to use any available control technique to meet the limitations. For industrial and other non-municipal facilities, technology-based effluent limitations are derived by using: (1) national effluent limitations guidelines and standards established by U.S. EPA; or best professional judgment on a case-by-case basis in the absence of national effluent limitations guidelines and standards. In the case of pesticide applications, U.S. EPA has not developed guidelines and standards other than the requirement to follow the labels when applying pesticides. At this point, it is not appropriate to establish technology-based effluent limitations other than following the label when applying algaecides and aquatic herbicides.

Therefore, the effluent limitations contained in this General Permit are narrative and include requirements to develop and implement an APAP that describes appropriate BMPs, including compliance with all algaecide and aquatic herbicide label instructions, and to comply with numeric receiving water limitations and actions required if monitoring triggers are exceeded.

The BMPs required herein constitute BAT and BCT and will be implemented to minimize the area and duration of impacts caused by the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides in the treatment area and to allow for restoration of water quality and protection of beneficial uses of the receiving waters to pre-application quality following completion of an application event.* In addition, for those enrollees that have been granted an exception to meeting receiving water limitations for acrolein and copper, in accordance with the Policy, this General Permit requires that upon completion of a pesticide application project, the Discharger shall provide certification by a qualified biologist that the receiving water beneficial uses have been restored.

The development of BMPs provides the flexibility necessary to establish controls to minimize the area extent and duration of impacts caused by the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides. This flexibility allows Dischargers to implement appropriate BMPs for different types of applications and different types of waters.

Much of the BMP development has been incorporated into the algaecide and aquatic herbicide regulation process by U.S. EPA, DPR, and County Agricultural Commissioners. The Dischargers must be licensed by DPR if such licensing is required for the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project. The algaecide and aquatic herbicide use must be consistent with the algaecide and aquatic herbicide label instructions and any Restricted Material Use Permits issued by County Agricultural Commissioners.

U.S. EPA and DPR scientists review algaecide and aquatic herbicide labels to ensure that a product used according to label instructions will cause no harm (or "adverse impact") on non-target organisms that cannot be reduced (or "mitigated") with protective measures or use restrictions. Many of the label directions constitute BMPs to protect water quality and beneficial uses. Label directions may include: precautionary statements regarding toxicity and environmental hazards; directions for proper handling, dosage, application, and disposal practices; prohibited activities; spill prevention and response measures; and restrictions on type of water body and flow conditions.

A Restricted Material Use Permit issued by the County Agricultural Commissioner incorporates applicable suggested permit conditions from DPR and local site-specific conditions necessary to protect the environment. State regulations require that specific types of information be provided in an application to the County Agricultural Commissioners for a Restricted Material Use Permit. The County Agricultural Commissioners review the application to ensure that appropriate alternatives were considered and that any potential adverse effects are mitigated. The County Agricultural Commissioners also conduct pre-project inspections on at least five percent of projects.

This General Permit requires that Dischargers use BMPs when implementing control programs in order to mitigate effects to water quality resulting from algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications. Dischargers are required to consider alternative control measures to determine if there are feasible alternatives to the selected algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project that could reduce potential water quality impacts. If the Discharger identifies alternative control measures to the selected algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project that could reduce potential water quality impacts and that are also feasible, practicable, and cost-effective, the Discharger shall implement the identified alternative measures. The selection of control measures that use non-toxic and less toxic alternatives is an example of an effective BMP.

2. **Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs)**

a. **Scope and Authority**

Section 122.44(d)(1)(i) of 40 C.F.R. mandates that permits include effluent limitations for all pollutants that are or may be discharged at levels that have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality standard, including numeric and narrative objectives within a standard. Where reasonable potential has been established for a pollutant, but there is no numeric criterion or objective for the pollutant, WQBELs must be established using: (1) U.S. EPA criteria under CWA section 304(a), supplemented where necessary by other relevant information; (2) an indicator parameter for the pollutant of concern; or (3) a calculated numeric water quality criterion, such as a proposed state criterion or policy interpreting the state's narrative criterion, supplemented with other relevant information, as provided in 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d)(1)(vi).

The process for determining reasonable potential and calculating WQBELs when necessary is intended to protect the designated uses of the receiving water as specified in the Basin Plans, and achieve applicable water quality objectives and criteria that are contained in other state plans and policies, or any applicable water quality criteria contained in the CTR and NTR.

Section 122.44(k)(3) of 40 C.F.R. allows the use of other requirements such as BMPs in lieu of numeric effluent limits if the latter are infeasible. It is infeasible for the State Water Board to establish numeric effluent limitations in this General Permit because:

i. The application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides is not necessarily considered a discharge of pollutants according to the *National Cotton Council of America v. U.S. EPA*[10] and other applicable case law. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that residual pesticides associated with the application of pesticides at, over, or near water constitute pollutants within the meaning of the CWA and that the discharge must be regulated under an NPDES permit;

ii. This General Permit regulates the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides used for algae and aquatic weed control to waters of the United States. These are algaecides and herbicides with registration labels that explicitly allow direct application to water bodies. In algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications to control pests, any algaecides and aquatic herbicides residue or degradation byproduct that is deposited in waters of the United States is a pollutant. However, at what point the algaecides and aquatic herbicides become a residue is not precisely known and varies depending on the type of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, application method and quantity, water chemistry, etc. Therefore, in the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, the exact effluent is unknown;

iii. It would be impractical to provide effective treatment of the algaecides and aquatic herbicides residue to protect water quality, given typically, algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications consist of numerous short duration intermittent algaecides and aquatic herbicides residue releases to surface waters from many different locations; and

iv. Treatment may render the algaecides and aquatic herbicides useless for algae and aquatic weed control.

Therefore, as stated in Technology-Based Effluent Limitations, Section V.B.1 above, the effluent limitations contained in this General Permit are narrative and include requirements to develop and implement an APAP that describes appropriate BMPs, including compliance with all algaecides and aquatic

[10] 553 F.3d 927 (6th Cir., 2009)

herbicides label instructions, and to comply with narrative receiving water limitations and triggers.

b. **Receiving Water Beneficial Uses**

Algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications for algae and aquatic weed control may potentially deposit residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides to surface waters. Beneficial uses of receiving waters are as follows: municipal and domestic supply, agricultural irrigation, agricultural stock watering, process water supply, service water supply, and hydropower supply, water contact recreation, canoeing and rafting recreation, other non-contact water recreation, warm freshwater aquatic habitat, cold freshwater aquatic habitat, warm fish migration habitat, cold fish migration habitat, warm and cold spawning habitat, wildlife habitat, navigation, groundwater recharge, and freshwater replenishment. Requirements of this General Permit implement the applicable Basin Plans.

c. **Determining the Need for WQBELs**

Water quality standards include Regional Water Board Basin Plan beneficial uses and narrative and numeric water quality objectives, State Water Board-adopted standards, and federal standards, including the CTR and NTR, as well as antidegradation policies. The Basin Plans include numeric site-specific water quality objectives and narrative objectives for toxicity, chemical constituents, and tastes and odors. The narrative toxicity objective states: "*All waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life*." With regard to the narrative chemical constituent objective, the Basin Plans state that waters shall not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses. At minimum, " *water designated for use as domestic or municipal supply (MUN) shall not contain concentrations of chemical constituents in excess of the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs)" in title 22 of CCR.* The narrative tastes and odors objective states: *"Water shall not contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that impart undesirable tastes or odors to domestic or municipal water supplies or to fish flesh or other edible products of aquatic origin, or that cause nuisance, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses*."

Federal regulations require effluent limitations for all pollutants that are or may be discharged at a level that will cause or have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above a narrative or numerical water quality standard.

d. **Antidegradation Policy**

The permitted discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provisions of 40 C.F.R. section 131.12 and State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Compliance with these requirements will result in the use of best practicable treatment or control of the discharge. Due to the low volume of discharge

expected from discharges regulated under this General Permit, the impact on existing water quality will be insignificant. Dischargers seeking authorization to discharge under this General Permit are required to demonstrate compliance with receiving water limitations during the application. If, however, the appropriate Regional Water Board, subsequent to review of any application, finds that the impact of a discharge will be significant, then authorization for coverage under this General Permit will be denied and coverage under an individual permit will be required (including preparation of an antidegradation analysis).

VI. RATIONALE FOR RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING TRIGGERS

A. Groundwater

[Not Applicable]

B. Surface Water

CWA section 303(a-c), requires states to adopt water quality standards, including criteria necessary to protect beneficial uses. Regional Water Boards adopted water quality criteria as water quality objectives in the Basin Plans. The Basin Plans state that "[t]*he numerical and narrative water quality objectives define the least stringent standards that the Regional Water Board will apply to regional waters in order to protect the beneficial uses.*" The Basin Plans include numeric and narrative water quality objectives for various beneficial uses and water bodies. This General Permit contains receiving water limitations based on the Basin Plans' numerical and narrative water quality objectives for bio-stimulatory substances, chemical constituents, color, temperature, floating material, settleable substances, suspended material, tastes and odors, and toxicity. This General Permit also requires compliance with any amendment or revision to the water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plans adopted by Regional Water Boards subsequent to adoption of this General Permit.

Once algaecides and aquatic herbicides have been applied to a treatment area, the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product can actively control pests within the treatment area. The discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, their residues, and their degradation byproducts from the applications to surface water must meet applicable water quality criteria and objectives. The receiving water limitations ensure that an application event* does not result in an exceedance of a water quality standard in the receiving water.

To protect all designated beneficial uses of the receiving water, the most protective (lowest) and appropriate (to implement the CTR criteria and WQOs in the Basin Plans) criteria should be selected as the permit limitation for a particular water body and constituent. In many cases, water quality standards include narrative, rather than numerical, water quality objectives. In such cases, numeric water quality limits from the literature or publicly available information may be used to ascertain compliance with water quality criteria.

Algaecide and aquatic herbicide formulations contain disclosed "active" ingredients that yield toxic effects* on target organisms and may also have toxic effects on non-target organisms. Algaecide and aquatic herbicide active ingredients that do not contain pollutants for which there are applicable numeric CTR criteria may still have toxic effects on receiving water bodies. In addition, the inactive or "inert" ingredients of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, which are trade secrets and have not been publicly disclosed, may also contain toxic pollutants or pollutants that could affect water quality.

DPR is responsible for reviewing toxic effects of product formulations and determining whether an algaecide or aquatic herbicide is suitable for use in California's waters. In this General Permit, inert ingredients are also considered on a constituent-by-constituent basis. U.S. EPA regulates pesticide use through strict labeling requirements in order to mitigate negative impacts to human health and the environment, and DPR environmental and medical toxicologists review toxicity data on formulations and can deny registration or work with registrants or County Agricultural Commissioners to impose additional requirements in order to protect human health or the environment.

U.S. EPA and DPR require that pesticides undergo toxicity testing and meet specific toxicity requirements before registering the pesticide for application to surface waters. U.S. EPA has found that the application of properly registered pesticides pose a minimal threat to people and the environment. In addition, the effects of these pesticides on water quality will be mitigated through compliance with FIFRA label requirements, application of BMPs, and monitoring.

Basin Plan water quality objectives to protect the beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater include numeric objectives and narrative objectives, including objectives for chemical constituents, toxicity, and tastes and odors. The toxicity objective requires that surface water and groundwater be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in humans, plants, animals, or aquatic life. The chemical constituent objective requires that surface water and groundwater shall not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect any beneficial use or that exceed the MCLs set forth in title 22, Cal. Code Regs. The tastes and odors objective states that surface water and groundwater shall not contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. The Basin Plans require the application of the most stringent objective necessary to ensure that surface water and groundwater do not contain chemical constituents, toxic substances, radionuclides, or taste and odor producing substances in concentrations that adversely affect domestic drinking water supply, agricultural supply, or any other beneficial use.

1. **Receiving Water Limitations**

   The instantaneous maximum receiving water limitations are based on promulgated water quality criteria such as those provided in the CTR, water quality objectives adopted by the State and Regional Water Boards in their Basin

Plans, water quality criteria adopted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, water quality standards such as drinking water standards adopted by U.S. EPA or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), or U.S. EPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria.

This General Permit provides receiving water limitations based on the lowest water quality criteria/objectives to protect all designated beneficial uses of the receiving water. The receiving water limitations in this General Permit are the same as those in Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ. The rationale for each limitation is summarized below.

Table D-2. Summary of Receiving Water Limitations

Constituent/ Parameter	BENEFICIAL USE[1]				Basis
	MUN, µg/L	WARM or COLD, µg/L	Other than MUN, WARM, or COLD, µg/L	All Designations	
2,4,-D	70				U.S. EPA MCL
Acrolein[2]	320	21	780		U.S. EPA Water Quality Criteria, 1986.
Chlorine		Freshwater[3] Acute Criterion = 20 µg/L			U.S. EPA's Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Freshwater Aquatic Life Protection
		Saltwater[3] Acute Criterion = < 10 µg/L			California Ocean Plan
Copper[2]				Dissolved Freshwater[3] Copper Chronic = 0.960exp{0.8545 [ln(hardness[4])] – 1.702}[5, 6] Dissolved Saltwater[3] Copper Chronic = 3.1 µg/L [5,6]	California Toxics Rule
Diquat	20				U.S. EPA MCL
Endothall	100				U.S. EPA MCL
Fluridone	560				U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System
Glyphosate	700				U.S. EPA MCL
Nonylphenol				Freshwater Chronic Criterion = 6.6 µg/L Saltwater Chronic Criterion = 1.7 µg/L	U.S. EPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria
Toxicity	Algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications shall not cause or contribute to toxicity in receiving water(s).				Regional Water Boards' Basin Plans

Notes

1. See Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for beneficial use definitions.
2. Public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G are not required to meet this receiving water limitation during the exception period described in Section VIII.C.10, Limitations and Discharge Requirements, Aquatic Pesticides Application Plan (APAP).
3. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or less than 1 part per thousand 95% or more of the time, the freshwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or greater than 10 parts per thousand 95% or more of the time, saltwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is between 1 and 10 parts per thousand, the applicable criteria are the more stringent of the freshwater or saltwater criteria.
4. For freshwater aquatic life criteria, waters with a hardness 400 mg/L or less as calcium carbonate, the actual ambient hardness of surface water shall be used. For waters with a hardness of over 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate, a hardness of 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate shall be used with a default Water-Effect Ratio of 1.
5. Values should be rounded to two significant figures.
6. This limitation does not apply to the Sacramento River and its tributaries above the State Highway 32 Bridge at Hamilton City. See Table III-1 of the Basin Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins for copper limitation.

Sodium hypochlorite, also known as liquid bleach, came into widespread use about 1930 for laundry, household, and general disinfecting uses. It is commercially available at strengths of five to 15 percent but is typically 10 percent or 12.5 percent available chlorine. It is more widely used than its dry counter part, calcium hypochlorite, due to its lower cost for transport, and is more easily handled.[11]

Chlorine is the only toxicant that results from the use of calcium hypochlorite and sodium hypochlorite-based pesticide products that are used to control algae and aquatic weeds. To protect all designated beneficial uses of the receiving water from chlorine residual, the most protective (lowest) and appropriate limitation for chlorine should be selected as the water quality limitation for a particular water body. The U.S. EPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria for freshwater aquatic life and the California Ocean Plan water quality objectives for chlorine are applicable. U.S. EPA has recommended ambient water quality criteria of 11 µg/l as a continuous concentration (four-day average) and 19 µg/l as the maximum concentration (one-hour average) for freshwater aquatic life protection for chlorine. The California Ocean Plan Water Quality Objectives, which protect human health and marine aquatic life from constituents in marine waters of California, list 2 µg/l as the six month median, 8 µg/l as the daily maximum, and 60 µg/l as the instantaneous maximum for chlorine.

However, because of the lack of precision with current chlorine residual measuring instruments, it would be more appropriate to set the freshwater chlorine receiving water limitations to 10 µg/l as a monthly average and 20 µg/l as a daily maximum; a daily maximum of nondetect or <10 µg/l is appropriate to protect marine aquatic life.

[11] 11 G. C. White, Handbook of Chlorination, 2nd ed. (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhol Company Inc, 1986) 63-70.

The copper limitation in Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ was based on the CTR's Criteria Continuous Concentration (CCC) expressed in total recoverable concentration. This General Permit also uses CCC from the CTR as the basis of the copper limitations; however, the copper limitation is now expressed in dissolved concentration. Since the copper criterion in the CTR is expressed in dissolved concentration, the receiving water limitation must also be expressed in dissolved rather than total concentration since it is the dissolved portion of copper that is bioavailable to aquatic life.

Based on Policy section 5.3, this General Permit grants public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G a short-term or seasonal exception from meeting receiving water limitations for acrolein and copper during treatment. As a condition of the exception, this General Permit requires Dischargers to provide the length and justification of required exception periods in their APAPs. There is no discrete definition for short-term; but the intent is to allow the exception to apply during the treatment period. It is up to the Discharger to make this demonstration.

The receiving water dissolved oxygen limitation is based on the Regional Water Board Basin Plans' dissolved oxygen objectives.

2. **Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers**

In algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications, it is reasonable to conclude that some residual algaecides or aquatic herbicides will remain in the receiving waters. These residual algaecides or aquatic herbicides may cause toxicity to aquatic life. However, information regarding the specific amount of algaecide or aquatic herbicide residues (described below) in the receiving water as a result of direct applications for weed control is not adequate to develop receiving water limitations for these algaecides and aquatic herbicides. Therefore, this General Permit only contains Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers and/or monitoring requirements for these algaecides or aquatic herbicides. The monitoring triggers and monitoring data will be used to assess whether the discharges of these algaecide or aquatic herbicide residues have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion of a water quality standard, including numeric and narrative objectives within a standard.

In the absence of adopted criteria, objectives, or standards, the State Water Board used U.S. EPA's Ambient Criteria for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (Ambient Water Quality Criteria) which are directly applicable as a regulatory level to implement narrative toxicity limitations included in all Regional Water Board Basin Plans. Where adopted criteria, objectives, standards, or Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable, the State Water Board used data from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to develop the Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers to protect all beneficial uses of the receiving water.

For constituents that do not have Ambient Water Quality Criteria, the Instantaneous Maximum Receiving Water Monitoring Trigger is based on one-tenth of the lowest 50 Percent Lethal Concentration (LC50) from U.S. EPA's

Ecotoxicity Database. Using one-tenth of the lowest LC50 as the receiving water monitoring trigger is consistent with the Central Valley Regional Water Board's Basin Plan approach when developing the Daily Maximum Limitation for algaecides or aquatic herbicides that do not have water quality criteria.

This General Permit may be re-opened to add receiving water limitations to the algaecides or aquatic herbicides listed below if the monitoring triggers are exceeded or the monitoring data indicate re-opening of the permit is appropriate. The following is a detailed discussion of toxicity data, applicable water quality criteria, and Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers, if applicable, for these algaecides or aquatic herbicides:

a. FlumioxazinFlumioxazin was first registered for aquatic use by U.S. EPA in 2010 and by DPR in 2014. Flumioxazin is a protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPO) inhibitor which acts by initiating cell membrane disruption in algae (e.g., Filamentous, Blue-Green) and submersed (e.g., Eurasian watermilfoil, Curlyleaf pondweed) and floating (e.g., Watermeal, Duckweed) aquatic plants. Flumioxazin is a contact herbicide that quickly degrades in water and plants. Flumioxazin must come in contact with the plant for optimal efficacy and is applied via foliar or surface spray or submersed injection. Flumioxazin does not accumulate in sediment. Flumioxazin degrades via hydrolysis with a half-life of 3.4 - 5.1 days at pH 5, 21.4 - 24.6 hours at pH 7, 14.6 - 22 minutes at pH 9.

   Staff obtained toxicity data for flumioxazin from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess its toxicity to freshwater aquatic life. Table D-3 summarizes the toxicity data for flumioxazin below.

Table D-3. Toxicity Data Summary for Flumioxazin (CAS#103361-09-7)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1992	21
Sheepshead minnow	96 h	1992	4.7
Rainbow trout	96 h	1992	2.3
	21 d	1992	2.4
Lowest LC50/10 > 0.23			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for flumioxazin. Table D-3 shows that one-tenth of the lowest LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for flumioxazin is greater than 0.23 mg/l.

Due to the absence of water quality criteria for flumioxazin and its toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, this General Permit does not have a receiving water monitoring trigger for flumioxazin. However, this General Permit requires receiving water monitoring for

flumioxazin to collect data, which will provide information on whether the use of flumioxazin has water quality impacts.

~~a.~~b. Imazamox

Imazamox is a derivative of the active ingredient, ammonium salt of imazamox for the aquatic herbicide Clearcast, which DPR registered for use in California in October 2012. It is labeled for application to water for the control of submerged aquatic plants species and some emergent and floating species.

Imazamox is an herbicide that inhibits an enzyme in aquatic plants that is essential for the synthesis of three-branched chain amino acids.

Staff obtained toxicity data for imazamox from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess its toxicity to freshwater aquatic life. However, U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* contains toxicity data only for imazamox, but not for its salt. Table D-~~3~~ 4 summarizes the toxicity data for imazamox below.

Table D-~~3~~4. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazamox (CAS# 114311-32-9)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Mysid	96 h	1998	> 100
		1998	> 94.3
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1994	> 119
Rainbow trout	96 h	1994	> 122
Sheephead mino	96 h	1998	> 94.2
		1998	> 94.2
Lowest LC50/10 > 9.4 mg/L			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for imazamox and imazamox salt. Table D-3 shows that one-tenth of the lowest LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for imazamox is greater than 9.4 mg/l.

Due to the absence of water quality criteria for imazamox and its low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, this General Permit does not have a receiving water monitoring trigger for imazamox. However, this General Permit requires receiving water monitoring for imazamox to collect data, which will provide information on whether the use of imazamox has water quality impacts.

~~b.~~c. Imazapyr

The active ingredient imazapyr is marketed by the trade names Arsenal, Chopper, and Assault. Upon contact, imazapyr can interfere with DNA synthesis and cell growth of the plants. The target weed species are grasses, broad-leaves, vines, brambles, shrubs and trees, and riparian and emerged aquatics. The result of exposure is death of new leaves. It was first registered in the United States in 1984.

Imazapyr is a slow-acting amino acid synthesis inhibitor. It has an average water half-life* of four days with photodegradation as the primary form of degradation in water. Imazapyr acts more quickly and is less toxic than other low-volume herbicides. According to the San Francisco Estuary* Invasive Spartina Project's May 4, 2005 report titled *Use of Imazapyr Herbicide to Control Invasive Cordgrass (Spartina spp.) in the San Francisco Estuary*, imazapyr in water rapidly degrades via photolysis. The report further states that a number of field studies demonstrated that imazapyr rapidly dissipated from water within several days, and no detectable residues of imazapyr were found in either water or sediment within two months; in estuarine systems, dilution of imazapyr with the incoming tides contributes to its rapid dissipation, suggesting that imazapyr is not environmentally persistent in the estuarine environment and does not result in significant impacts to water quality. The report concludes that imazapyr herbicides can be a safe, highly effective treatment for control and eradication of non-native *Spartina* species in the San Francisco Estuary and offers an improved risk scenario over the existing treatment regime with glyphosate herbicides. On August 30, 2005, DPR registered imazapyr for aquatic application as an aquatic herbicide.

Toxicity data for imazapyr were obtained from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess the toxicity of imazapyr to freshwater aquatic life. Tables D-4~~-~~5 and D-~~5~~-6 summarize the toxicity data for imazapyr and imazapyr salt.

Table D-45. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazapyr (CAS#81334-34-1)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Pink shrimp	96 h	1988	> 189
Atlantic silverside	96 h	1988	> 184
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1983	> 100
		1983	> 100
Channel catfish	96 h	1983	> 100
Rainbow trout	96 h	1983	> 100
		1995	> 110
Lowest LC50/10 > 10			

Table D-~~5~~6. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazapyr Isopropylamine Salt (CAS#81510-83-0)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Water flea	48 h	1984	350
Rainbow trout	96 h	1984	**112**
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1984	> 1000
Lowest LC50/10 = 11.2			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for imazapyr and imazapyr salt. Tables D-4 ~~5~~ and D-~~5~~ ~~6~~ show that the lowest one-tenth of LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for imazapyr is 11.2 mg/l.

Due to its safe use in the environment and low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, this General Permit does not have a receiving water limitation for imazapyr. However, this General Permit contains a monitoring trigger of 11.2 mg/l based on one-tenth of the lowest LC50 from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* and requires receiving water monitoring to collect data, which will provide information on whether imazapyr has water quality impacts.

~~c.~~d. Penoxsulam

Penoxsulam is the active ingredient for Galleon SC, a selective systemic aquatic herbicide for management of freshwater aquatic vegetation in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, marshes, wetlands, non-irrigation canals, slow-moving water bodies, etc. Penoxsulam is a post-emergence acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitor developed by Dow AgroSciences to be used as a foliar spray on dry-seeded rice crops. The mode of action is to inhibit the acetolactate synthases enzyme in the target weed.

The U.S. EPA Pesticide Fact Sheet states that penoxsulam is expected to be very mobile, but not very persistent, in either aqueous or terrestrial environments. Penoxsulam exists almost exclusively in a disassociated state at pH values normally found in rice paddy water (averaging about eight), but not in terrestrial environments where lower pH values may be found. Penoxsulam degrades by two different transformation mechanisms, producing 13 different identified transformation products, 11 of which meet the criteria to be classified as major degradation byproducts,[12] six of which reached peak concentrations at study termination, indicating a greater degree of persistence than penoxsulam and a potential to reach concentrations even greater than those reported at study termination. The results of the screening-level risk assessment suggest that penoxsulam will not pose a threat to aquatic or terrestrial animals, however, this conclusion must be tempered by the fact that testing has not been conducted on several major degradation byproducts.

Toxicity data for penoxsulam were obtained from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess the toxicity of penoxsulam to freshwater aquatic life. Table D-~~6~~ 7 summarizes the toxicity data for penoxsulam.

Table D-~~6~~7. Toxicity Data Summary for Penoxsulam (CAS#219714-96-2)

[12] U.S. EPA defines major degradation byproducts to be BSA, 2-amino-TP, TPSA, BSTCA methyl, BSTCA, 2-amino-TCA,5-OH-penoxsulam, SFA, sulfonamide, 5,8-di-OH and 5-OH, 2 aminoTP.

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	2000	> 103
Common carp fish	96 h	2001	> **101**
Mysid	96 h	2000	> 114
Rainbow trout	96 h	2002	> 147
		2000	> 102
Scud	96 h	2000	> 126
Lowest LC50/10 > 10.1			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for penoxsulam. Table D-~~6~~ 7 shows that the lowest one-tenth of LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for penoxsulam is greater than 10.1 mg/l.

Due to its safe use in the environment, low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, and lack of accurate toxicity value, this General Permit does not have a receiving water monitoring trigger. However, this General Permit requires receiving water monitoring to collect data, which will provide information on whether penoxsulam has water quality impacts.

e. ~~d.~~ Hydrogen Peroxide, Peroxyacetic Acid, and Sodium Carbonate Peroxyhydrate

Hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetic acid, and sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate are contact herbicides that work by oxidizing critical cellular components of the target aquatic vegetation leading to death. When applied to water, peroxyacetic acid and sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate break down to hydrogen peroxide. The hydrogen peroxide subsequently breaks down into water and oxygen. Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate has been registered for aquatic use since early 2006. Hydrogen peroxide and peroxyacetic acid have been registered for aquatic use since 2002.

Use of these active ingredients in the aquatic environment is limited to contained, non-flowing waters as noted on product labels containing these active ingredients. These active ingredients can be highly toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates at the higher application rates indicated on labels for products containing these active ingredients.

There are no LC50 toxicity data for peroxyacetic acid and sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*~~.~~. However, these active ingredients break down to hydrogen peroxide and their toxicity can be evaluated based on the toxicity of hydrogen peroxide. Staff obtained LC50 toxicity data for hydrogen peroxide from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to

assess it's toxicity to freshwater aquatic life. Table D-8 summarizes the LC50 toxicity data for hydrogen peroxide.

Table D-8. Toxicity Data Summary for Hydrogen Peroxide (CAS#7722-84-1)

Type of Organism	Study Length (hours)	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Bluegill sunfish	0.5 - 96	1997	103 - 7,250*
Rainbow trout	0.5 - 96	1997	45 - >12,000*
	96	1992	93
	0.5 - 2	1997	189 - 574
Lowest LC50/10 > 4.5			

* Toxicity is highly temperature dependent with higher toxicity at higher temperatures. Range of study temperatures = 7.35°C to 21.5°C.

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetic acid, and sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate. Table D-8 shows that one-tenth of the lowest LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for hydrogen peroxide is greater than 4.5 mg/l.

Due to the absence of water quality criteria for hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetic acid, and sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate and the relatively rapid breakdown of these compounds in water, this General Permit does not have receiving water monitoring triggers for these active ingredients.

~~Sodium carbonate hydroxyhydrate has been registered as an algaecide since early 2006. The most common brand names are PAK 27, Phycomycin, and Green Clean. It is an alternative to traditional copper based algaecides. It acts as an oxidizing agent and thus kills the target algae. When it is applied into water, the compound quickly breaks down into hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and sodium carbonate. The hydrogen peroxide oxidizes and thus kills the target pests. After contact, the hydrogen peroxide breaks down into water and oxygen.~~

~~U.S. EPA has waived toxicity testing for freshwater fish and invertebrate during the registration process. According to the U.S. EPA fact sheet, when the pesticide is applied in accordance with directions on the label, no harm is expected to freshwater fish or freshwater invertebrates.~~

~~There are no toxicity data for sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*. Therefore, this General Permit does not have a monitoring trigger or a monitoring requirement for sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate.~~

~~d.~~f. Triclopyr Triethylamine (TEA) Salt

Triclopyr TEA is a systemic herbicide used to control broad-leaf weeds and woody plants.

U.S. EPA concluded in its re-registration document that triclopyr TEA is practically non-toxic to freshwater fish and aquatic invertebrates on an acute basis and triclopyr TEA is slightly toxic to practically non-toxic to estuarine/marine fish and invertebrates on an acute basis.

Triclopyr produces the metabolite or degradate 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP). Based on its analysis, U.S. EPA concludes that the existing uses of triclopyr are unlikely to result in acute or chronic dietary risks from TCP. Based on limited available data and modeling estimates, with less certainty, the U.S. EPA concluded that existing uses of triclopyr are unlikely to result in acute or chronic drinking water risks from TCP.

Toxicity data for triclopyr TEA were obtained from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess the toxicity of triclopyr TEA to freshwater aquatic life. Table D-~~7~~ 9 summarizes the toxicity data for Triclopyr TEA.

Table D-~~7~~9. Toxicity Data Summary for Triclopyr TEA Salt (CAS#57213-69-1)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1978	891
	96 h	1973	471
Fathead minnow	96 h	1978	947
	96 h	1983	546
	96 h	1983	279
Grass shrimp	96 h	1992	326
Inland Silverside fish	96 h	1989	**130**
Pink shrimp	96 h	1975	895
Rainbow trout	96 h	1973	240
	96 h	1978	552
Lowest LC50/10 = 13.0			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for triclopyr TEA. Table D-~~7~~ 9 shows that the lowest one-tenth of LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for triclopyr TEA is 13 mg/l.

Due to its safe use in the environment and low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, this General Permit does not have a receiving water limitation for triclopyr TEA. However, this General Permit contains a monitoring trigger of 13.0 mg/l based on one-tenth of the lowest LC50 from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* and requires receiving

water monitoring to collect data, which will provide information on whether triclopyr TEA has water quality impacts.

VII. RATIONALE FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. MRP Goals

Section 122.48 of 40 C.F.R. requires that all NPDES permits specify requirements for recording and reporting monitoring results. Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 authorize the State and Regional Water Boards to require technical and monitoring reports. The Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in Attachment C of this General Permit establishes monitoring and reporting requirements to implement federal and state requirements.

The goals of the MRP are to:

1. Identify and characterize algaecide or aquatic herbicide application projects conducted by the Discharger;
2. Determine compliance with the receiving water limitations and other requirements specified in this General Permit;
3. Measure and improve the effectiveness of the APAP;
4. Support the development, implementation, and effectiveness of BMPs;
5. Assess the chemical, physical, and biological impacts on receiving waters resulting from algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications;
6. Assess the overall health and evaluate long-term trends in receiving water quality;
7. Demonstrate that water quality of the receiving waters following completion of resource or weed management projects are equivalent to pre-application conditions; and
8. Ensure that projects that are monitored are representative of all algaecide or aquatic herbicide and application methods used by the Discharger.

The MRP in the Attachment C of this General Permit is considered as baseline monitoring requirements. Monitoring plans proposed by Dischargers in their APAP must meet the minimum requirements prescribed in the MRP. Public entities and mutual water companies that have a Policy section 5.3 exception should comply with the MRP in this General Permit as well as monitoring plan proposed in their CEQA document where the two plans differ.

B. Effluent Monitoring

Pursuant to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(i), effluent monitoring is required for all constituents with effluent limitations. Effluent monitoring is necessary to assess compliance with effluent limitations, assess the effectiveness of the

treatment process, and assess the impacts of the discharge on the receiving water and groundwater.

The application of pesticides for pest control is not necessarily considered a discharge of pollutants according to the *National Cotton Council of America v. U.S. EPA* decision and other applicable case law. The regulated discharge is the discharge of residual pesticides. At what point the pesticide becomes a residue is not precisely known. Therefore, in the application of pesticides, the exact effluent is unknown. Thus, the effluent monitoring requirement is not applicable for algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications.

C. Toxicity Testing Requirements

The State Water Board, pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act and the federal CWA, customarily requires the Discharger to conduct toxicity monitoring. In fact, both Acts anticipate Discharger self monitoring. However, this General Permit does not require toxicity testing based on the 2004 toxicity study funded by the State Water Board and data collected from 2004 to 2008. The toxicity study found the following: (1) There was no toxicity with the use of 2,4-D, glyphosate, and triclopyr; (2) Toxicity testing was difficult for acrolein due to its volatility; (3) Results were inconclusive for diquat and fluridone; and (4) Peak copper concentrations did not exceed toxicity values. The monitoring data collected under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ from 2004 to 2008 showed that all constituent concentrations from post-event application samples were below receiving water limitations except for the following: three exceedances each for acrolein and glyphosate and 82 exceedances for copper out of 288 monitoring events. For glyphosate, it is likely that the three exceedances were not the result of aquatic herbicide applications because the pre-application samples also showed exceedances and the remaining 151 samples showed no exceedance. For copper, 43 of the 82 exceedances were from public agencies or mutual water companies that were excepted from meeting priority pollutant limitations during the exception period. The Policy allows the exception. Thus, staff did not consider these exceedances as violations of the receiving water limitations. However, 39 of the exceedances were from entities that did not have a Policy exception. Although staff considered these exceedances as true violations of the receiving water limitations, staff is not aware of any long-term impacts from these exceedances. Long-term impacts from exceedances are likely not going to occur for the following reasons: (1) water quality criteria, which are used directly as receiving water limitations in this General Permit, have built-in factors of safety; (2) as shown in the 2004 toxicity study, the actual peak concentrations after applications of copper did not exceed toxicity values; and (3) the applications are short-term in duration. All of the foregoing information indicates that widespread acute ecosystem impacts will not occur from algaecide or aquatic herbicides applied according to their label instructions and requirements of this General Permit. Therefore, toxicity monitoring requirements are not necessary.

D. Receiving Water Monitoring

Receiving water monitoring is necessary to determine the impacts of the discharge on the receiving stream.

All forms of testing have some degree of uncertainty associated with them. The more limited the amount of test data available, the larger the uncertainty. The intent of this General Permit's sampling program is to select a number that will detect most events of noncompliance without requiring needless or burdensome monitoring.

Staff also used EPA's Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control (TSD) to determine the appropriate number of samples that would be needed to characterize the impacts of the residual pesticide discharge from pesticide applications. Page 53 of the TSD recommends using a coefficient of variation (CV) 0.6 when the data set contains less than 10 samples. Table 3-1 of the TSD shows that with a CV of 0.6, the multiplying factors used to determine whether a discharge causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an excursion above a state water quality standard begin to stabilize when the sample number is six. Thus, this General Permit requires six samples per year for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) to characterize the effects of residual pesticide discharge from pesticide applications. However, after a Discharger or Coalition has provided results from six consecutive sampling events showing concentrations that are less than the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in a specific environmental setting, sampling shall be reduced to one application event per year for that active ingredient in that environmental setting.

Similarly, this General Permit contains a reduced monitoring frequency of once per year (instead of six) at each environmental setting for glyphosate. The reduced monitoring frequency is based on staff's review of available data from 2004 to 2008 that showed no exceedance of the permit limitation for glyphosate under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ.

VIII. RATIONALE FOR AQUATIC PESTICIDE USE REQUIREMENTS

A. Application Schedule

The Discharger shall provide a phone number or other specific contact information for all persons who request the Discharger's application schedule.

B. Application Notification Requirements

The Policy section 5.3, Categorical Exception, requires public agencies and mutual water companies that have been granted the short-term or seasonal exception for compliance with priority pollutant limitations to notify potentially affected public and government agencies of algaecide or aquatic herbicide application.

C. APAP

This General Permit contains narrative effluent limitations, which include implementing BMPs described in the APAP, which is a requirement of this General Permit. See Section VI, Rationale for Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications, for more detailed explanation of the need for an APAP.

D. APAP Processing, Approval, and Modifications

Upon receipt of a new or an amended APAP, staff will post it on the State Water Board's website. Major changes to the APAP shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for approval. Examples of major changes include using a different product other than what is specified in the APAP, changing an application method that may result in different amounts of algaecide or aquatic herbicides being applied, or adding or deleting BMPs. Since the APAP shall include ALL (1) the water bodies or water body systems in which algaecide or aquatic herbicides are being planned to be applied or may be applied to control algae and aquatic weeds and (2) the application areas and the target areas in the system that are being planned to be applied or may be applied, changes in monitoring locations are not considered major changes. However, these changes need to be reported in the annual report.

In preparing for the reissuance of the General Permit, staff will evaluate review periods and comments received during the life of this permit and look for efficiencies. Based on this information, staff will propose revisions to the public comment process for APAPs.

E. Aquatic Pesticide Application Log

An application log to record all algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications is necessary. This application log will help Dischargers and the Water Boards' staff to investigate any exceedance of receiving water limitations or receiving water monitoring triggers.

IX. RATIONALE FOR PROVISIONS

A. Standard Provisions

1. Standard Provisions in Attachment B

Standard Provisions, which apply to all NPDES permits in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.41, and additional conditions applicable to specified categories of permits in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.42, are provided in Attachment B. The Discharger must comply with applicable standard provisions and with those additional conditions that are applicable under 40 C.F.R. section 122.42.

Sections 122.41(a)(1) and (b) through (n) of 40 C.F.R. establish conditions that apply to all state-issued NPDES permits. These conditions must be incorporated

into the permits either expressly or by reference. If incorporated by reference, a specific citation to the regulations must be included in the General Permit. Section 123.25(a)(12) of 40 C.F.R. allows the state to omit or modify conditions to impose more stringent requirements. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. Section 123.25, this General Permit omits federal conditions that address enforcement authority specified in 40 C.F.R. section 122.41(j)(5) and (k)(2) because the enforcement authority under the California Water Code is more stringent. In lieu of these conditions, this General Permit incorporates by reference California Water Code section 13387(e).

2. **Discharge to Impaired Water Bodies**

Impaired water bodies are water quality limited segments listed under CWA 303(d) listings. The water bodies on these lists do not meet water quality standards, even if the discharge itself meets water quality standards. The Basin Plans state that "*Additional treatment beyond minimum federal standards will be imposed on dischargers to Water Quality Limit Segments. Dischargers will be assigned or allocated a maximum allowable load of critical pollutants so that water quality objectives can be met in the segment.*" The allocated loads are Discharger and receiving water specific. It is infeasible to assign a uniform load in a statewide general permit. Therefore, this General Permit does not authorize the discharge of active ingredients of algaecides or aquatic herbicides, their residues, and their degradation byproducts to water bodies that are already impaired due to the same product active ingredients, their residues, and their degradation byproducts.

B. Special Provisions

1. **Reopener Provisions**

The reopener provisions allow future modification to this General Permit in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.62.

a. Addition to Policy Exception List in Attachment G

This General Permit may be reopened to add a public entity or a mutual water company which may not otherwise meet the receiving water limitations for acrolein and copper and meets the requirements for an exception from meeting those limitations, consistent with section 5.3 of the Policy.

b. Addition of Aquatic Pesticide Active Ingredients

This General Permit may be reopened to add newly registered algaecide or aquatic herbicide active ingredients so that Dischargers can be covered by this General Permit when they apply the algaecide or aquatic herbicide products with the new active ingredients.

c. Acute and Chronic Toxicity

When the State Water Board revises the Policy's toxicity control provisions that would require the establishment of numeric chronic toxicity limitations or

other actions, this General Permit may be reopened to comply with those requirements.

d. Receiving Water Limitations

If monitoring data for residual pesticides show exceedance of monitoring triggers, the Discharger or Coalition shall conduct additional investigations to determine the cause of exceedance. At a minimum, the Discharger or Coalition shall evaluate its application methods, BMPs, and the appropriateness of using alternative products. As a result of the evaluation, this General Permit may be re-opened to add numeric Receiving Water Limitations for the residual pesticides exceeding the triggers.

e. Endangered Species Act

If U.S. EPA develops biological opinions regarding pesticides included in this General Permit, this General Permit may be re-opened to add or modify Receiving Water Limitations/Monitoring Triggers for residual pesticides of concern, if necessary.

2. **Special Studies, Technical Reports, and Additional Monitoring Requirements**

a. Additional Investigation

This General Permit requires Dischargers to conduct additional investigations if the monitoring results exceed the receiving water monitoring limitations. These investigations are necessary in order to address the exceedance caused by the algaecide or aquatic herbicide application and meet the General Permit's limitations and requirements including Basin Plans' narrative water quality objective of no toxics in toxic amount.

b. Qualified Biologist Certification Following Project Completion

The requirement is retained from Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ and is based on Policy section 5.3 exception.

3. **Corrective Action**

When receiving water limitations or triggers are exceeded, Dischargers are expected to assess the cause of exceedance and take appropriate actions as necessary to prevent recurrence of the problem.

X. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This General Permit specifies that compliance be based on event and post-event sampling results. The event sample results will determine if exceedance occurred outside the Treatment Area* during treatment. Post-event samples will determine if exceedance occurred in the Application or Treatment Area after treatment. Since the minimum effective concentration and time needed to effectively kill or control target weeds or algae vary due to site specific conditions, such as flow, target species, water chemistry, and type of algaecides or aquatic herbicides, this General Permit allows Dischargers to determine when treatment is completed.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The State Water Board is considering the issuance of WDRs that will serve as a general NPDES permit for algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications. As a step in the WDR adoption process, the State Water Board staff has developed tentative WDRs. The State Water Board encourages public participation in the WDR adoption process.

A. Notification of Interested Parties

The State Water Board has notified interested agencies, parties, and persons of its intent to prescribe general WDRs for algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations. Notification was provided to interested parties through specific mailings and publication in major newspapers throughout California. The State Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to discharges to be regulated by this General Permit. Details of the Public Hearing are provided in the Fact Sheet of this General Permit.

B. Written Comments

Interested persons were invited to submit written comments concerning this tentative WDR. Comments were due at the State Water Board offices by 12:00 noon on **August 21, 2012**. Seven comment letters were received.

C. Public Hearing and Meeting

The State Water Board held a public hearing on the tentative WDRs during its regular Board meeting on **August 7, 2012**. The State Water Board ~~will~~ considered adoption of the WDRs at a public meeting on the following date, time, and location:

Date:	~~**May**~~ **March** ~~**20**~~**5**, ~~**2014**~~**2013**
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Interested persons ~~are~~ were invited to attend. At the public meeting, the State Water Board ~~will~~ heard comments, if any, limited to changes on the draft General Permit.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. The State Water Board's website address is www.waterboards.ca.gov where you can access the ~~current~~ agenda for changes in dates and locations.

D. Information and Copying

The tentative effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and special provisions, comments received, and other information are on file and may be inspected at the

address above at any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copying of documents may be arranged through the State Water Board by calling (916) 379-9152.

E. Register of Interested Persons

Any person interested in being placed on the mailing list for information regarding this general WDR and NPDES permit should contact the State Water Board, reference the general WDR and NPDES permit, and provide a name, address, and phone number.

F. Additional Information

Requests for additional information or questions regarding this General Permit should be directed to NPDES_Wastewater@waterboards.ca.gov.

Attachment E – Notice of Intent

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

I. NOTICE OF INTENT STATUS (see Instructions)

Mark only one item A. New Applicator B. Change of Information: WDID# _____ C. ☐ Change of ownership or responsibility: WDID# _____

II. DISCHARGER INFORMATION

A. Name			
B. Mailing Address			
C. City	D. County	E. State	F. Zip
G. Contact Person	H. E-mail address	I. Title	J. Phone

III. BILLING ADDRESS (Enter Information ***only*** if different from Section II above)

A. Name			
B. Mailing Address			
C. City	D. County	E. State	F. Zip
G. E-mail address	H. Title	I. Phone	

IV. RECEIVING WATER INFORMATION

A. Algaecide and aquatic herbicides are used to treat (check all that apply):

1. ☐ Canals, ditches, or other constructed conveyance facilities owned and controlled by Discharger.
   Name of the conveyance system: _____
2. ☐ Canals, ditches, or other constructed conveyance facilities owned and controlled by an entity other than the Discharger.
   Owner's name:_____
   Name of the conveyance system: _____
3. Directly to river, lake, creek, stream, bay, ocean, etc.
   Name of water body: _____

B. Regional Water Quality Control Board(s) where treatment areas are located
(REGION 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9): Region _____
(List all regions where algaecide and aquatic herbicide application is proposed.)

V. ALGAECIDE AND AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION INFORMATION

A. Target Organisms: ____

B. Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Used: List Name and Active ingredients

C. Period of Application: Start Date_____ End Date_____

D. Types of Adjuvants Used:

VI. AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATION PLAN

Has an Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan been prepared and is the applicator familiar with its contents?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, when will it be prepared? _____

VII. NOTIFICATION

Have potentially affected public and governmental agencies been notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No

VIII. FEE

Have you included payment of the filing fee (for first-time enrollees only) with this submittal?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NA

IX. CERTIFICATION

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction and supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment. Additionally, I certify that the provisions of the General Permit, including developing and implementing a monitoring program, will be complied with."

A. Printed Name: _____

B. Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

C. Title: _____

XI. FOR STATE WATER BOARD STAFF USE ONLY

WDID:	**Date NOI Received:**	**Date NOI Processed:**
Case Handler's Initial:	**Fee Amount Received:** **$**	**Check #:**
☐ **Lyris List Notification of Posting of APAP**	**Date** _____	**Confirmation Sent** _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING NOI

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

These instructions are intended to help you, the Discharger, to complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) form for the Statewide General NPDES permit. **Please type or print clearly when completing the NOI form**. For any field, if more space is needed, submit a supplemental letter with the NOI.

Send the completed and signed form along with the filing fee and supporting documentation to the Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board. Please also send a copy of the form and supporting documentation to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board).

Section I – Notice of Intent Status

Indicate whether this request is for the first time coverage under this General Permit or a change of information for the discharge already covered under this General Permit. Dischargers that are covered under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ before effective date of this General Permit should check the box for change of information. For a change of information or ownership, please supply the eleven-digit Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) number for the discharge.

Section II – Discharger Information

Enter the name of the Discharger.
Enter the street number and street name where correspondence should be sent (P.O. Box is acceptable).
Enter the city that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the county that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the state that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the zip code that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the name (first and last) of the contact person.
Enter the e-mail address of the contact person.
Enter the contact person's title.
Enter the daytime telephone number of the contact person

Section III – Billing Address

Enter the information **only** if it is different from Section II above.

A. Enter the name (first and last) of the person who will be responsible for the billing.

B. Enter the street number and street name where the billing should be sent (P.O. Box is acceptable).
C. Enter the city that applies to the billing address.
D. Enter the county that applies to the billing address.
E. Enter the state that applies to the billing address.
F. Enter the zip code that applies to the billing address.
G. Enter the e-mail address of the person responsible for billing.
H. Enter the title of the person responsible for billing.
I. Enter the daytime telephone number of the person responsible for billing.

Section IV – Receiving Water Information

Please be reminded that this General Permit does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a threatened or endangered species or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code §2050 et. seq) or the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.A. §1531 et. seq). This General Permit requires compliance with effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and other requirements to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state. The Discharger is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable Endangered Species Act.

Additional information on federally-listed threatened or endangered species and federally-designated critical habitat is available from NMFS (www.nmfs.noaa.gov) for anadromous or marine species or FWS (www.fws.gov) for terrestrial or freshwater species.

A. Check all boxes that apply. At least one box must be checked.
1. Check this box if the treatment area is a canal, ditch, or other constructed conveyance system owned and controlled by Discharger. Print the name of the conveyance system.
2. Check this box if the treatment area is a canal, ditch, or other constructed conveyance system owned and controlled by an entity other than the Discharger. Print the owner's name and names of the conveyance system.
3. Check this box if the treatment area is not a constructed conveyance system (including application to river, lake, creek, stream, bay, or ocean) and enter the name(s) of the water body(s).

B. List all Regional Water Board numbers where algaecide and aquatic herbicide application is proposed. Regional Water Board boundaries are defined in section 13200 of the California Water Code. The boundaries can also be found on our website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml

Regional Water Board Numbers	Regional Water Board Names
1	North Coast
2	San Francisco Bay

Regional Water Board Numbers	Regional Water Board Names
3	Central Coast
4	Los Angeles
5	Central Valley (Includes Sacramento, Fresno, Redding Offices)
6	Lahontan (South Lake Tahoe, Victorville offices)
7	Colorado River Basin
8	Santa Ana
9	San Diego

Section V – Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Application Information

- **A.** List the appropriate target organism(s).
- **B.** List the name and active ingredients of each algaecide and aquatic herbicide to be used.
- **C.** List the start and end date of proposed aquatic algaecide and aquatic herbicide application event.
- **D.** List the name(s) and type(s) of adjuvants that will be used.

The Discharger must submit a new NOI if any information stated in this section will be changed. If the Discharger plans to use an algaecide and aquatic herbicide product not currently covered under its Notice of Applicability (NOA), and the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product may be discharged to a water of the United States as a result of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application, the Discharger must receive a revised NOA from the State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality before using that product.

Section VI – Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan

The Coalition or Discharger must prepare and complete an Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP). The minimum contents of APAP are specified in the permit under Section VIII.C, Limitations and Discharge Requirements, of the General Permit. The Discharger must ensure that its applicator is familiar with the APAP contents before algaecide and aquatic herbicide application.

If an APAP is not complete at the time of application, enter the date by which it will be completed.

Section VII – Notification

Indicate if you have notified potentially affected public and governmental agencies, as required under item VIII.B of the General Permit.

Section VIII – Fee

The amount of Annual fee shall be based on Category 3 discharge specified in section 2200(b)(9) of title 23, California Code of Regulations. Fee information can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/docs/fy1112fee_schdl_npdes_prmt.pdf.

Check the YES box if you have included payment of the annual fee. Check the NO box if you have not included this payment. **NOTE:** You will be billed annually and payment is required to continue coverage.

Section IX– Certification

- **A.** Print the name of the appropriate official. The person who signs the NOI must meet the signatory and certification requirements stated in Attachment B Standard Provisions item V.B.
- **B.** The person whose name is printed above must sign and date the NOI.
- **C.** Enter the title of the person signing the NOI.

Attachment F – Notice of Termination

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

I. WDID

WDID# _____

II. DISCHARGER INFORMATION

A. Name			
B. Mailing Address			
C. City	D. County	E. State	F. Zip
G. Contact Person	H. E-mail address	I. Title	J. Phone

III. BASIS FOR TERMINATION

IV. CERTIFICATION

"I certify under penalty of law that 1) I am not required to be permitted under this General Permit No.CAG990005, and 2) this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction and supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment. Additionally, I understand that the submittal of this Notice of Termination does not release an algaecide or aquatic herbicide applicator from liability for any violations of the Clean Water Act."

A. Printed Name: _____

B. Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

C. Title: _____

V. FOR STATE WATER BOARD USE ONLY

☐ **Approved for Termination** ☐ **Denied and Returned to the Discharger**

A. Printed Name: _____

B. Signature: _____

C. Date: _____

NOT Effective Date: / /

Attachment G – Exception List

LIST OF PUBLIC AGENCIES AND MUTAL WATER COMPANIES GRANTED AN EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD POLICY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TOXICS STANDARDS FOR INLAND SURFACE WATERS, ENCLOSED BAYS, AND ESTUARIES OF CALIFORNIA (POLICY)

The public entities and mutual water companies listed herein have prepared Initial Studies, Negative Declarations (ND), or Mitigated Negative Declarations (MND), and Notices of Determination for the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.)) to comply with the exception requirements of section 5.3 of the Policy. The boards of each public entity or mutual water company, as the lead agencies under CEQA, approved the Final ND/MND and determined that the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides in their respective projects would not have a significant effect on the environment. These public entities and mutual water companies have determined that the water quality or related water quality impacts identified in the environmental assessments of the ND/MND are less than significant.

In addition to submitting the CEQA documentation, these public entities and mutual water companies have also complied with the other exception requirements of section 5.3 of the Policy.

As required in section 15096 of the CEQA Guidelines, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, considered the ND/MND approved by the board of each public entity or mutual water company and finds that the projects will have less than significant water quality impact if the waste discharge requirements in this General Permit are followed. Accordingly, the public entities and mutual water companies listed herein are hereby granted an exception pursuant to section 5.3 of the Policy.

1. Byron-Bethany Irrigation District
2. City of Antioch Department of Public Works
3. City of Sacramento
4. City of Poway
3.5. Contra Costa Water District
4.6. Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
5.7. Department of Food and Agriculture
6.8. Department of Water Resources
7. 9. Fresno Irrigation District
8. 10. Friant Water Users Authority
9. 11. Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
12. Helix Water District

~~10.~~ 13. James Irrigation District
~~11.~~ 14. Madera Irrigation District
~~12.~~ 15. Maine Prairie Water District
~~13.~~ 16. Marin Municipal Water District
~~14.~~ 17. Merced Irrigation District
~~15.~~ 18. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
~~16.~~ 19. Modesto Irrigation District
~~17.~~ 20. Nevada Irrigation District
~~18.~~ 21. North Marin Water District
~~19.~~ 22. Oakdale Irrigation District
~~20.~~ 23. Placer County Water Agency
~~21.~~ 24. Potter Valley Irrigation District
~~22.~~ 25. Princeton-Cordora-Glenn Irrigation District
~~23.~~ 26. Provident Irrigation District
~~24.~~ 27. Reclamation District 108
~~25.~~ 28. Reclamation District 1000
~~26.~~ 29. Reclamation District 1004
30. San Diego County Water Authority
~~27.~~ 31. Santa Cruz Water Department
32. Santa Fe Irrigation District
~~28.~~ 33. Solano Irrigation District
~~29.~~ 34. South Feather Water and Power Agency
~~30.~~ 35. South Sutter Water District
36. Sweetwater Authority
~~31.~~ 37. Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
~~32.~~ 38. Turlock Irrigation District
~~33.~~ 39. Woodbridge Irrigation District
~~34.~~ 40. Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Response to Comments

Draft Amendments to the Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Waters of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications

State Water Resources Control Board
April 20, 2016

The State Water Board received seven comment letters on the draft amendments to the Aquatic Weed Control Permit. The public notice was published on February 23, 2016 with a comment deadline of March 25, 2016 with an extension granted to Michael Blankinship to April 2, 2016 per his request. The seven commenters are noted in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Draft Aquatic Weed Control Permit Amendments Commenters

Company	Representative
Association of California Water Agencies	Rebecca Franklin
BioSafe Systems, LLC	Jeff Kline
Blankinship & Associates, Inc.	Michael Blankinship
California Department of Water Resources	David Duval
Clean Lakes Inc.	Thomas McNabb
General Public	Terry McNabb
SePRO Corporation	Sarah Miller

All comments from commenters addressed two permit amendments: 1) the definition of "contained, non-flowing waters" related to applications of the pesticide active ingredients hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetic acid, or sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate added to Attachment A – Definitions of the draft permit amendments and 2) the additional use restrictions for products containing hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetic acid and/or sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate added in section IX.C.7 of the draft permit amendments. The specific text of these draft permit amendments is shown below:

1) <u>Attachment A – Definitions</u>

Contained, Non-Flowing Waters
For the purposes of this permit, "contained, non-flowing waters" shall mean a water body that has no inflow or outflow immediately preceding and for a period of at least 48 hours following application of the pesticide active ingredients hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetic acid, or sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate.

2) <u>Section IX.C.7</u>

Additional Restrictions for Use of Products Containing Hydrogen Peroxide, Peroxyacetic Acid, and Sodium Carbonate Peroxyhydrate
In addition to FIFRA label requirements, products containing the active ingredients sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, hydrogen peroxide, and/or peroxyacetic acid must be applied with the following additional use restrictions:

a. *Apply products containing these active ingredients only to contained, nonflowing waters;*
b. *Do not apply products containing these active ingredients during prime fish feeding times (i.e., at dawn or dusk and when flying insects are visible over water surface) to protect resident fish species;*

c. *Do not apply products containing these active ingredients when juvenile fish and amphibians are present;*
d. *Apply products containing these active ingredients from the shallow margins of the water body out to deeper waters to allow mobile aquatic life to escape the treatment area; and*
e. *Only treat one-half of the contained water body at a time to minimize impacts to the aquatic system and, do not make subsequent treatments of the untreated area in the same water body within 48 hours of the initial water body treatment.*

Comments on these additions stressed that the proposed additional use restrictions on sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, hydrogen peroxide, and peroxyacetic acid will:

1) result in reduced efficacy of these pesticide active ingredients;
2) result in increased incidence of nuisance algae and weeds;
3) result in pesticide applicators using pesticide active ingredients that are more toxic and persistent in the environment than these pesticide active ingredients; and
4) result in limiting the use of these pesticide active ingredients to small, isolated water bodies.

Commenters also noted that the proposed additional use restrictions are unwarranted, breakdown of these pesticide active ingredients is rapid and leaves no residuals, and product label restrictions mitigate any potential impacts to fish, amphibians, and other aquatic organisms.

In addition, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation has advised that the permit cannot establish requirements that contradict or go beyond what is on the pesticide product label.

Based on the public comments and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation feedback, the proposed addition of 1) the definition of “contained, non-flowing waters” in Attachment A and 2) Section IX.C.7 have been removed from the proposed permit amendments.

APPENDIX B:

FIELD APPLICATION LOG AND FIELD OBSERVATIONS LOG

LAKE SAN MARCOS
AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATION LOG

Active Ingredient Applied:		YEAR:	
APPLICATION PLANNING			
Application Area (General)			
Target Condition (algae, vegetation type)			
Status of Control Structure: is Dam Overtopping?		Y / N	
Status of Control Structure: is Valve Closed?		Y / N	
Status of Control Structure: is Valve Leaking?		Y / N	
Target Treatment Area Surface Area (square feet) (Area of desired effect)			
Target Treatment Area Volume (acre-feet)			
Application Surface Area (square feet) (Area actually treated)			
Application Area Volume (acre-feet)			
Include map showing vicinity of lake treated, the target treatment area, and the application area, with the date of application and the active ingredient applied			
Calculations of Dosage and Quantity (attach additional pages if needed)			
APPLICATION INFORMATION			
DATE of Application:			
Applicator NAME:			
Start time:		*End Time:*	
Plot	*Area (sq. ft. or acres)*	*Quantity Applied (lbs)*	*Rate (lbs per acre)*
APAP CERTIFICATION:			
I, _____(print clearly) certify that the APAP has been followed. *Signed:*			

FIELD LOG

CDC - Lake San Marcos APAP Monitoring	YEAR:
Active Ingredient Applied:	
Application Location:	

BACKGROUND CONDITIONS (PRE-APPLICATION)						
Weather:				Sampler Initials:		
Latitude: 33°	Longitude: 117°			Station A B C D E (circle)		
CIRCLE IF PRESENT: Floating or Suspended Matter: Y / N Discoloration: Y / N Bottom Deposits: Y / N				Aquatic Life (algae, fish, vegetation): Y / N Visible Sheens/Coatings: Y / N Fungi/Slime/Objectionable Growths: Y / N Nuisance Conditions: Y / N		
DATE/TIME	*TEMP (°C)*	*COND (MS)*	*PH*	*DO (MG/L)*	*SAMPLE ID*	*CHEMISTRY GRAB COLLECTED?*
						Y / N

EVENT CONDITIONS (ADJACENT TO TREATMENT AREA FOLLOWING TREATMENT)						
Weather:				Sampler Initials:		
Latitude: 33°	Longitude: 117°			Station A B C D E (circle if so)		
CIRCLE IF PRESENT: Floating or Suspended Matter: Y / N Discoloration: Y / N Bottom Deposits: Y / N				Aquatic Life (algae, fish, vegetation): Y / N Visible Sheens/Coatings: Y / N Fungi/Slime/Objectionable Growths: Y / N Nuisance Conditions: Y / N		
DATE/TIME	*TEMP (°C)*	*COND (MS)*	*PH*	*DO (MG/L)*	*SAMPLE ID*	*CHEMISTRY GRAB COLLECTED?*
						Y / N

POST EVENT CONDITIONS (1 WEEK POST-APPLICATION)						
Weather:						
Latitude: 33°	Longitude: 117°			Station A B C D E (circle if so)		
CIRCLE IF PRESENT: Floating or Suspended Matter: Y / N Discoloration: Y / N Bottom Deposits: Y / N				Aquatic Life (algae, fish, vegetation): Y / N Visible Sheens/Coatings: Y / N Fungi/Slime/Objectionable Growths: Y / N Nuisance Conditions: Y / N		
DATE/TIME	*TEMP (°C)*	*COND (MS)*	*PH*	*DO (MG/L)*	*SAMPLE ID*	*CHEMISTRY GRAB COLLECTED?*
						Y / N

ADDITIONAL NOTES: